Thursday, April 19, 2012 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 130 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUMMER'S MORE FUN WITH GREEN MANGOES The mere sight of green mangoes excites the taste buds of most Filipinos. These children get a treat from the low-hanging fruits of this mango tree in Candaba, Pampanga province. JAY ISRAEL

LIFESTYLE
The best Asian cooking in PH is in Baguio / C5

BUSINESS
Stocks soar to new high/ B2

NEWS
US Secret Service agents took 21 women to hotel / A25
After 24 years, Suu Kyi to travel abroad / A26
Mindanao govs defy P-Noy on power plant sale / A18
DOJ affirms homicide rap vs Daza kin / A24
PLDT run by Pinoys, SC told/ A2

PH ignores Sino demand

But Palace says talks continuing to resolve dispute

HOW FUN IS THAT! This new graduate wearing a "saklay," UP's version of a toga, goes for a jump shot with the Oblation in the background. The fresh graduates took turns taking souvenir photos at the university landmark after the College of Arts graduation on Wednesday. VINCENT CABREZA

By Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Jerry E. Esplanada

PHILIPPINE officials yesterday ignored China's demand to withdraw Filipino vessels from Panatag Shoal, declaring "that's our territory" and warning Chinese vessels to back off.

The officials said a Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel, BRP Ilocos, along with an archaeological survey mission aboard the MT Saranggani and a fishing boat, remained in the area, facing off two Chinese maritime surveillance vessels and a fishing boat.

On Monday, China demanded that all Filipino vessels clear the area, which is calls Huangyan Island and which is known internationally as Scarborough Shoal, and sent an aircraft to buzz a Philippine fishing boat in the second such incident since Saturday.

"We're also telling their ships to do the same," presidential spokesperson Ricky Carandang told reporters. "That's our territory and we're also saying the same thing to their ships."

Carandang said talks between the Philippines and China were continuing. "Tensions have not degenerated," he said, and the fact "that not a shot has

PH IGNORES A1

US envoy: War games our devotion to peace

THE ANNUAL Balikatan military exercises between the Philippines and the United States are about "working together in the spirit of the Mutual Defense Treaty" and in keeping with the two allies' "heightened cooperation on the breadth of bilateral, regional and global issues," US Ambassador to Manila Harry Thomas Jr said yesterday.

The war games are "about our common devotion to peace that has sustained our alliance through the years," Thomas said in a statement from the US Embassy.

"Over many decades, we have forged an enduring friendship and this experience can only make it stronger," Thomas said.

US ENVOY A6

'BILIB IT,' not Bilibid, for Taguig detainees

By Tarra Quismundo

FOR THOSE detainees, the next destination may well not be "Bilibid" but "BILIB IT."

Some 200 detainees at the Metro Manila District Jail (MMDJ) in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, will become the first batch to receive free training in information technology through "BILIB IT" (Bilibid in IT), a joint project

BILIB IT A19

China summons PH envoy over standoff

BEIJING—China said on Wednesday that the Philippines is violating maritime law by claiming a shoal in the South China Sea and dismissed Manila's request to take the dispute to an international court.

"We believe it runs counter to historical facts and violates the law," said Liu Weimin, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry.

Military vessels from the countries have been facing off over a fishing incident since last week near the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, which Manila calls West Philippine Sea. Both sides claim sovereignty over the maritime territory.

Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying "urgently summoned" the Philippine charge d'affaires, Alex Chua, on Sunday and again on Wednesday, Liu told reporters.

"She pointed out that the Philippines military vessels' harassment of Chinese fishermen and fishing boats have drawn

CHINA A6

Battle of Manila: 'Asiong Salonga' vs 'Dirty Harry'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jayvee T. Gamil

FROM MAYOR to president to mayor again.

Former President Joseph Estrada is flirting with the idea of wrapping up his political career the way he started it: as mayor. But this time, he is eyeing the post in Manila where he was born, and not in San Juan City where his family has built a political dynasty.

Estrada, who turns 75 today, said yesterday he had yet to make up his mind despite being "encouraged" by different sectors in Manila to seek the mayoralty. He said he would make

BATTLE A14

Binay announcement exposes him early to attacks / A6

SC: Wave of defiance vs court orders

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—There's "a wave of defiance" against court orders intended to protect human rights," Supreme Court Administrator and spokesperson Midas Marquez noted in a speech on Wednesday afternoon as he

SC WAVE A6

De Lima reports on high-profile fugitives

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—The trail of fugitive Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan has gone cold.

But not those of two other high-profile fugitives, former Gov. Joel Reyes of Palawan province and his brother, Cotabato Mayor Mario Reyes Jr., both wanted for the murder of environmentalist-broadcaster Gerry Ortega in Puerto Princesa City last year.

A merchant for another law-breaking public official, Rep. Ruben Ecleo Jr. of Dinagat Island, has begun. Ecleo has been convicted of parricide charges involving the death of his wife 10 years ago.

Speaking at a news conference here on Wednesday, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said the manhunt for Palparan may have reached a dead end.

De Lima said the authorities had stopped receiving tips from informants on the whereabouts of the retired Army general,

DE LIMA A19

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Metro Manila
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cubao
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Malabon
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	San Andres
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cembrano
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

6/49	15 5
6/42	20 16
6/55	10 1
SUPER 6/55	
6/49	7 0 3
6/42	3 5 8
6/55	2 6 4

FOUR DIGIT

0 8 9 5

MEGA 6/45

11 15 25 33 40 41

P4,500,000.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

4 8 12 23 24 51

P67,015,724.40

LOTTO 3PM Two DM LOTTO, result to 6PM. PCSO photo

PLDT run by Pinoys, SC told

By Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) insisted to the Supreme Court that it is controlled by Filipinos and not foreigners, as it sought to reverse the high court's 2011 ruling ordering the telecommunications giant to return control of the company to its Filipino stockholders.

The high tribunal held oral arguments on the case during its summer session here on Tuesday.

Lawyer Victor Lazatin, counsel for PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno, said the high court had "relied on documents that are not authentic and data" when it issued the ruling that he said may have implications on how foreign investors are to be treated in the country.

Lazatin said the decision "ignored the reality on the ground" and "a self-reliance and independence PLDT effectively controlled by Filipinos." He said only two foreigners sit on the PLDT board of directors.

In June 26, 2011 decision, the high court ruled that PLDT had violated the constitutional provision on foreign ownership in a transaction involving the government's sequestered shares of stock in PLDT.

PLDT stockholder William Gamboa went to the high court in 2007 asking it to nullify the government's sale of its PLDT shares to Metro Pacific Assets Holdings (MPAH), an affiliate of the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. (First Pacific).

Gamboa ruling

Gamboa, who died in December 2011, argued that the sale gave PLDT's foreign investors more than half of the company's controlling shares in violation of the Constitution which restricts foreign ownership of assets in the Philippines to 40 percent, leaving the dominant 60 percent to Filipino control.

In its 2011 ruling, the high court noted that foreign investors owned shares of stock in PLDT that gave them the right to vote on company decisions, whereas most Filipinos owned shares that do not give them the same voting rights.

This was because of Presidential Decree 217 issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos which required all PLDT phone applicants to subscribe to non-voting preferred shares to pay for the investment cost of installing a telephone line.

To correct the discrepancy, the high court defined the term "capital" to refer to shares of stock that are entitled to vote in the election of company directors.

In the PLDT's case, it was defined to refer only to common shares and not to the total outstanding capital stock or common and non-voting preferred shares of the company combined.

SEC probe

The court found that 64 percent of PLDT was owned by foreigners (holding common shares) in violation of constitutional limits to foreign ownership. But if preferred shares are included in determining the company's ownership structure, 87 percent of PLDT is owned by Filipinos and 13 percent by foreigners.)

In its ruling, the high court directed the SEC to investigate the PLDT's ownership structure to find out whether it was in violation of the foreign capital limit based on the reformed's definition of capital, and if it is in violation, to impose the appropriate sanctions under the law.

Lazatin said Tuesday's hearing the decision ignored the fact that if "capital" would be defined in all forms of shares, PLDT had not violated the Constitution because it meant that 86.7 percent of its shares of stock are Filipino-owned and only 13.7 percent are foreign-controlled.

"If not reconsidered, the Gamboa decision will affect the voting rights of PLDT and all foreign shareholders. It changes the rules in the middle of the game. It sets back (by) two steps our quest for economic development and prosperity for our people," Lazatin said.

He said the Gamboa ruling would "push our country out of the radar screen of foreign investors," and "expose the government to investment suits" owing to bilateral treaties and contracts it may end up breaking.

Lazatin took the brunt of the justices' questioning. Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Presbitero Velasco Jr. asked the lawyer to explain all historical definitions of the term "capital," including how it is defined by past and present Philippine laws, in order to show to the court how it may have misled the situation of the telecommunications giant.

Aside from Lazatin, the other lawyers who participated in the hearing were counsel for Manuel Pangilinan, the PLDT chair, and those representing the SEC and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Lawyer Pedrito Teodoro, who supported Gamboa's suit, also teamed up with his legal team, Teodoro and his brother, lawyer Amo Teodoro, were petitioners in intervention which the court had allowed to participate in Gamboa's suit.

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Cabanatuan sizzles with 38° Celsius

RESIDENTS of Nueva Ecija experienced on Tuesday the second hottest temperature this year, weather forecasters said yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration recorded a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius in Cabanatuan City between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday.

That same day the temperature shot up to 33.3 degrees Celsius in Tuguegarao, Cagayan; 34.5 degrees Celsius in Metro Manila and 27.6 degrees Celsius in Baguio City.

"There were no clouds, so the heat directly hit land. Add to that the surface heat and hot winds," forecaster Nikkai Astrido said in a phone interview.

The hottest temperature of 38.4 degrees Celsius this year was recorded in Clark, Angeles, last Friday, which is lower than the 39.2 degrees Celsius in Cabanatuan on May 3, 2011, forecaster Jose Gulong said.

The sizzling temperature is expected to shoot up as the dry season peaks in May.

Tuguegarao holds the record of hottest temperature of 42.2 degrees Celsius on May 11, 1969.

In Tuguegarao City, the rising temperature in Cagayan Valley the past days drew complaints from motorcycle riders, who were forced to find ways to beat the heat.

Pagasa forecasts a generally fair weather for the country until weekend, except for scattered rain showers in Mindanao. TJ Burgonio

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Globe Business scores a hole-in-one with its Annual G-Tour

Solutions that fit. Globe Business

Globe Business recently hosted the 2012 G-Tour at the exclusive Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa City. The event gathered together more than 180 golf enthusiasts representing Globe's valued enterprise customers for a day of friendly competition and good company.

Already on its eleventh year, the G-Tour is one of the most awaited events in the local golf-playing business community. It was the perfect venue for Globe executives, including International and Business Markets Head Gil Genio and Globe Business Head Jesus Romero, together with their esteemed clients to interact, network and connect with each other in a more relaxed and congenial setting.

The tournament adopted a 4-man scramble with sliding tee box format, designed to foster teamwork between the participants and balance the playing abilities of the various competing teams. Ultimately, Ramcast de Veyra of Schenker Philippines, Jeanette Jose of Fritz, Stephen Yu of Manila Resin and Dominic Yap of Globe were the golfers who walked away with the top honors that day. Over 100 exciting prizes were also raffled off to the lucky G-Tour participants. Among the major prizes were Apple iPads and an iPhone 4S, vacation packages at Boracay Shangri-La, a Nike iron Set and a Club Car golf cart. Everyone definitely went home a winner last March 10.

Grace Jann-Castillo, Globe Business Head for Enterprise Segments, conveyed her gratitude to all those who took part and contributed to the resounding success of the 2012 G-Tour. "We are thankful to our customers for always taking the time, year after year, to participate in this exciting tournament. We appreciate their unwavering support and the fruitful partnerships. Hence, we promise that we will continue to deliver excellent products and services, and go beyond expectations in the way we serve them."

Ramcast De Veyra of Schenker Philippines, Stephen Yu of Manila Resin, Jeanette Jose of Fritz & Dominic Yap of Globe

Gil Genio of Globe, Jeffrey Ang of Manila Pipeline, Carol Lipton of Benson Associates Solutions & Ramon Chu of Powerhouse

Jesus Romero of Globe

Bing Benasoan of Globe, Robert Galvez of RCBC Bankard, Andrew Chua of Asia United Bank and Bernie Talimban of Bank of Commerce

Paulo Wong of Globe, Mario Bernon of Bernard Group of Companies, Paul Bonheyo & Ramon Wang of EVO Global

Jess Arevalo of Smith Kline, Cesar Chong of Philippine Airlines, Grace Castillo of Globe & Rolly Tuvil Gaspar

Dave Aspa of LVL Autosports, Peng Canoy of Avaya Philippines, Tim Bonyong of Eagle Express Group & Jun Tayzon of Filipinas Datacom

Bryan Perez of NRK, Jojo Guerra of Smoppak and Brian Quinn of Avaya

Eric Rathmeder of Coca-Cola, Jay Gomez of NCCC Financial Systems, Harry Fonnesbe of Globe & Bong Serapio of IBM Global Process Services

Tournament champions Juancho Jose of Fritz, Dean Tiu of Globe & Stephen Yu of Manila Resin with Jesus Romero, Grace Castillo and Gil Genio of Globe

Perry Morales of Sterling Bank, Victor Guillen of Benguet Corporate Parking, and Arnulfo Concepcion & Luis Manuel Buggeyong of Philippine Coal Corporation

Dennis Jander of Linde Philippines, Kevin Rodrigues Dio of Philippine Airlines & Edward Cortes of Globe

Luigi Rivera, Rolan Perez and Mark Lumbres of Globe & Albert Villaseca of Philippine Long Distance Tel.

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Palace wants broad support for new mining policy

Correction

IN THE APR. 17 ISSUE, a Lifestyle PhilNews story on Page C2..."How did system chaos up your liver before anything else"...inadvertently printed the wrong contact number. As of print time, we have not received word from UK-based Dr. Oliver Cunda regarding her contact details in the Philippines. Meantime, you can e-mail her office, Advance Biomedical Treatment Center, at info@abmedcare.com. Our apologies for the inconvenience the wrong number may have caused.

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG is taking a long time to come up with the framework for the country's mining policy because it wants as many of the industry's stakeholders as possible to get on board, according to Ricky Carandang, the head of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office.

The policy statement—soon as a guide for executive issuances and proposed legislation for the omnibus bill—has industry—as expected "some," Carandang said.

Mining has been a very divisive issue over the past decades than "if we need to take a little bit more time to bring more people on board then I think that's time well spent rather than on, on our own, coming up with the mining policy without consulting people," he said.

"Given that it's a very volatile and divisive issue, we'd rather have more stakeholders on board even if it takes a little bit more time," Carandang said.

"One of the things that we want to do also is to make sure that this document, this policy has the approval of as many of the stakeholders," he told a press briefing earlier.

The Chamber of Mines has claimed that the industry has P104 billion in foreign direct investments last year because of the suspension of the issuance of permits and the absence of a new mining policy.

"We understand the concerns and this is exactly why we are trying to make sure that we have a mining policy from which will flow specific actions," Carandang said.

He said it was too early to say whether new legislation would be needed, as a result of the new mining policy.

Last March, Carandang said administration officials had agreed on the need to review existing laws and policies to allow the government to obtain a bigger revenue share from mining operations in the country.

"There's a consensus to revisit how much government gets by allowing mining in the country," he said.

He said this was among the opinions that was developed during a meeting of environment officials and members of the Cabinet economic cluster.

Carandang said the government is looking at the experience of other countries like Canada, Australia and South Africa in generating revenues from mining.

He declared that the meetings of the environment protection executives with the members of the economic cluster is a comprehensive discussion on mining's implications on the environment, the economy and indigenous peoples.

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Comelec exec's worst fear is true, says Palace

MALACAÑANG confirmed yesterday that President Aquino would not be reappointing election commissioner Augusto "Gus" Lagman as the information technology expert of the poll body.

Secretary Ricky Carandang, head of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, said President Aquino already "has some names under consideration" as Lagman's replacement. He said he was not privy to the names as the short list had not added that "given the importance of the position, (the Palace) will be able to nominate someone in a short time."

Carandang said Lagman was informed because the administration had received word from a leader of Congress that Lagman would be disjointed if he goes through the congressional confirmation process.

"I was talking to Congressman Neptali Gonzales.... They were firmly confident in saying that Gus Lagman will be rejected by the Commission on Appointments if we insisted on appointing him," Carandang said in yesterday's news briefing in Malacañang.

"And so in consultation with Commissioner Lagman, we decided that instead of having him go through that process, sometimes painful process only to be rejected, we felt it's better to just...(initially) appoint (a) new(ly) just not reappoint him," he added.

Carandang also indicated Lagman was acceptable to Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who chairs the Commission on Appointments.

But Carandang denied that the decision to remove Lagman had anything to do with the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona, whom Enrile sits as the presiding judge.

"That has nothing to do with impeachment. What it had to do was a case where Gus Lagman used to be involved in the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, where they had a difference of opinion with Senator Enrile," Carandang said. Norman Bordadora

Comelec has money for CamSur vote

By Cynthia D. Rubio

MANILA Secretary Sharon Garin said he followed the Commission on Elections (Comelec) order to use a portion of its Php 7.53-billion savings for 2013 to fund the holding of a plebiscite in Camarines Sur on the proposed creation of the province of Naval Camarines Oriental Camarines Oriental Camarines Oriental

Would-be state witness no-show in hearing for Abalos petition for bail

FOR failing to present their witness for the second time, Commission on Elections (Comelec) prosecutors were ordered by the Pasay City Regional Trial Court yesterday to put in writing their opposition to Benjamin Abalos Jr.'s plea for bail in the electoral sabotage case they had brought against him.

Judge Eugenio de la Cruz of the court's 117th branch considered the absence of Lilia Juan-Rachon, former election supervisor of South Cotabato, a waiver of her appearance. Hadam and Najib Mastura, election supervisor of North Cotabato, were the original accused in the case. The Department of Justice had announced it would use Rachon and Mastura as state witnesses against Abalos, but the Comelec had refused to drop the charges against them.

De la Cruz directed the prosecution to submit a formal offer of evidence within five days. Chief of Court Lalibe Calongcagon told the lawyers.

"The witness was allegedly not well enough to come to court," Calongcagon said.

Judge de la Cruz directed the defense to submit its comment three days after receiving a copy of the offer. After that, the defense lawyers' request to allow Abalos, former chair of the Comelec, to post bail would be submitted for resolution. Mike Marchan

Only House, not Sandigan, has power to suspend GMA

By Gil Cabacungan

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo could not be arrested after her term as the House of Representatives declared that the Sandiganbayan cannot place her under preventive suspension while facing corruption charges in the anti-graft court.

Only Congress can suspend one of its members, said Magdalena Rep. Simeon Datumanong, a member of Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi, and House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, a former Arroyo ally.

"Under the Constitution, only the House of Representatives can suspend its members for disorderly behavior by a vote of two-thirds of all its members," said Datumanong in a text message.

Gonzales pointed out that since Arroyo was being charged for her alleged complicity in the 2009 ZTE deal which was allegedly committed while she was president and not as a representative of Pampanga, "this is beyond the jurisdiction of the ethics committee."

"Even if the Sandiganbayan suspension is issued, it will not be implemented by the House," he said.

Ombudsman prosecutors filed a motion with the Sandiganbayan asking the anti-graft court to place Arroyo under mandatory suspension because of the graft charges filed against her.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said he does not expect the people in the to revolt if Arroyo is not arrested.

"That's not a gallstic. However why a gun, as long as justice is served, I don't think the Filipino people will appear. Dire umpirestic," said Honasan.

"You cannot predetermine the judgment of the Filipino people, who want to see justice served," he said.

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4.3 cm Lung Tumor Disappeared

---Benny genuinely experienced defeating death in his cancer treatment in China

Left to right: Dr. Christine Gunagdinao, Benny Cancer Survivor, and Dr. Ong Sandy, Chief Specialist Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital, middle during patient's

Benny , is a successful professional manager in human resources management from Jakarta Indonesia. At 46, everything seemed to be perfect both in his career and personal life until that fateful day of December 2010 wherein, he suddenly felt chest and epigastrium symptoms of haemorrhage and vomiting. The family got so worried that they consulted several hot doctors. Upon the suggestions of his daughter's friend, he discovered a PET/CT scan abroad and it was here where a shadow in his lung was discovered. He was introduced to a pulmonary specialist that made a pathological test for him who confirmed the existence of a tumor in the wall of the lung and it was about 5.6cm in size.

It was time for the family to make a decision. It was providential that Benny's sister had a female colleague who suffered from cancer for 3 years and who was treated in Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital. She was treated with holistic oncotherapy and the effect was very positive because the 3.2 cm tumor disappeared after having the holistic oncotherapy.

Meanwhile, Benny's tumor was continuously growing and true enough when he went to Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital , his PET / CT examinations revealed the tumor had increased to 4.3 cm. Immediately, four new cancer treatments were given to Benny: cryotherapy, iodine 125 particle therapy, intensively invasive therapy and finally holistic oncotherapy and for these treatments, he stayed in the hospital for four months. The completion of the holistic oncotherapy's immune system of his treatments spelled great improvement in his health and he was able to check out of the hospital and returned home to Indonesia. Few more treatments and visits at the hospital and Benny's tumor was gone. What all the more pleasant Benny was the fact that the team of specialists headed by Prof.Xiaoxin of Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital developed a personalized and unique treatment regimen for him. The uncharacteristic immunity which used to hair to grow back which he lost during his chemotherapy in the past.

It was not only his hair which Benny regained, he was also back in his previous weight owing to his restored appetite and good quality of sleep. All these things allowed Benny to resume and enjoy his normal activities back after his return to Indonesia from China. He just needed a days rest and was out and about enhanced to work the next day.

At present , Benny is currently at home, but it is safe to say that he is now back in his old self- he goes swimming, singing , go shopping and travel a couple of times.

Indeed, Benny is thankful for the treatment that he received at Guangzhou. And if given the chance, he shares this wonderful experiences to others who are similarly situated so that he can be of help to others as well. For more information, please visit us at Unit A-1102 6/F Anda Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, or contact [illegible], 0919 4642894, 0923 8083333 http://e-asiaoncare.com.

Mr. Benny satisfied with the service Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital gave a few months ago

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Siayan: A story of hope and determination

Siayan's Municipal Mayor Jennifer Cruz Garcia

We are very determined to get out of the tag of being the poorest municipality in the country.

Newly-elected 1st district Siayan Mayor Jennifer Cruz Garcia is determined to change the municipality's image from being the poorest in the country to a progressive one.

Garcia made the statement during the recent Kapihan sa Manila Bay at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila.

Garcia said that they are very determined to get out of the tag of being the poorest municipality in the country.

"We are very determined to get out of the tag of being the poorest municipality in the country," Garcia said.

Siayan is a 4th class municipality in the province of Zamboanga del Norte with a population of 36,000 residents.

Garcia said that they

Mike pleads not guilty in tax raps

By Cleora Yu
Reign Inquirer

ANG GALING Pinoy pantry for Rep. Jesse Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo may finally be resigned behind bars on tax evasion charges before the Court of Tax Appeals in Quezon City.

But the eldest son of former President Gloria Arroyo declined to enter a plea in three counts of tax evasion which stemmed from his alleged failure to declare the appropriate income tax in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

First Division Associate Justice Esperanza Fabon Victorino said a not guilty plea will be entered on the young Arroyo's behalf.

Lawyer Ilex Bonifacio, counsel of Arroyo, initially tried to stop the arraignment by filing a motion to quash the charges.

But Arroyo, who is set to leave for the United States in June for a vacation and a visit to the Filipino community, ruled out his lawyer's request and advised him not to block the arraignment.

The arraignment of Arroyo was first set on Feb. 29. The court has scheduled a preliminary investigation on May 16.

Arroyo, minds supervisor for internet of security guards and tricycle drivers to the party-list group, was charged by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) three counts of tax evasion. His wife, Angelu, was charged with seven counts for failure to file income tax returns from 2003 to 2009.

The BIR has placed the Arroyo's estimated tax liability at P74 million. The couple posted a P200,000 bail bond for their temporary liberty.

Conservationists agog over new frog species

By Kristine L. Alave

THEY are not exactly Princess Charming, but the two new frog species discovered in the forest of Southern Leyte have caused excitement among conservationists who have almost given up on the dilapidated province.

Environmentalists and government officials announced on Monday the discovery of the two new frog species, which, they said, were found in the forest of Mt. Hamiguitan in Southern Leyte last year.

Conservationists from Fauna and Flora International (FFI) conducted a monthlong survey of the forested mountain range and discovered the two new frog species. The five-year expedition over the municipalities of Hinunangan, Sogod, Maasin, Tomas Oppus, and Malitbog.

The survey had the backing of the German development agency GIZ, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the National Museum, which were cooperating on the United Nations information initiative called reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) project.

The FFI said the two new frog species belong to the genus Platymantis. Arnold Alfin Arguiniano, leader of the survey, said the species were found one week into the announcement.

"They were found at night," Alfin told in interview. "We heard a different call from the frogs so the team searched for it," he said.

The team found one of the frogs on a tree branch and found the other on the ground, Alfin said.

Scientists have not yet named the frogs. The FFI suggested that one of the frogs be named Platymantis hamiguitanensis, after the REDD project.

Filipino and American herpetologists are working on the formal taxonomic description of the species, the FFI said.

Aside from the new frog species, the Mt. Hamiguitan assessment also recorded 229 flora species, 31 of them found only in the Philippines.

The survey team recorded 33 2 vertebrates, which included 112 birds, 36 mammals and 69 amphibians and reptiles. The FFI said most of these animals are endangered species.

SC: Wave of defiance against court orders

From page A1

addressed a media workshop in this city where the Supreme Court justices and the Court of Appeals are holding three days annual summer session.

Marquez raised the following in "most glorious expression": Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's decision not to honor the high court's temporary restraining order or a travel ban imposed against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; the government's inability to enforce a court-issued arrest order against former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes in connection with the murder of broadcaster-environmentalist Gerardo Ortega in Puerto Princesa City, and the refusal of a Baguio mall to revoke a temporary environmental protection order last week.

The problem

"The problem when the preconditions of independence and public confidence are not met is that the judiciary loses its capacity to uphold the rule of law," Marquez said.

There is no bad blood between the judiciary and the media, given the efforts judges are reaching to make themselves accessible and their decisions better understood by the public, Chief Justice Renato Corona said here on Wednesday.

"I've always believed that you file and submit accurate and objective reports. Unfortunately, somewhere along the way, sometimes, no-nagpa-bribe ang mga reports-niyan (two reports are presented in a particular date or angle)," said Corona during the media workshop.

"If a public official can't take that, then he should not be in public service. Hindi tayo pikon. Hindi tayo nagkukumpitensiya. (I am not easily offended. The media and I are not trying to prove who can be better hurting our tempers)," he said.

Fair and balanced

Corona said he would not mind the bad reports "for as long as (the news is)—everything is balanced."

Marquez added that keeping the relationship between the media and the judiciary steady is necessary because the courts have started to lose the public trust due to the decision of the judicial process displayed by the deputies administration.

Marquez cited newspaper accounts to attest that "relentless hammering" from both President Aquino and the members of his Cabinet has "pulled down the public trust in the Supreme Court, whose rating slipped to 37 percent in March from 53 percent last November."

MARQUEZ: Judiciary loses its capacity to uphold rule of law.

Binay announcement exposes him early to attacks

BINAY sees highest trust ratings.

BY ANNOUNCING his presidential bid too early in the game, Vice President Jejomar Binay leaves the side of being attacked from all sides.

But in the same breath, Sen. Gregorio Honasan theorized that this could be a calculated ploy on the part of the Vice President to win the matter, so to speak.

"You'll have to admire the moral courage of the Vice President who has already expressed his intention to run for the highest post in the land," said Honasan in an interview by phone yesterday.

Honasan was personally handpicked by the Vice President to join the senatorial slate by the United Nationalist Alliance for next year's midterm elections.

The senator threw his support behind Binay's decision to lay his cards on the table.

"This is not a gamble. There is nothing uncertain about the statements that have been made by the Vice President. He is not beating around the bush, unlike the others who don't know what they want. The Vice President is clean and categorical about his intentions."

"To me—not because I have publicly endorsed or joining the UNA, or I'm not saying this to patronize the Vice President—at least the Filipino people are exposed to a predictable trajectory plan from the Vice President," said Honasan.

Honasan opined that this early announcement of Binay's political plans would unnecessarily expose the Vice President to attacks.

"That's true. In fact, he's being attacked now by the higher game of unseen groups, but psychologically he has so far weathered these attacks, and he enjoys the highest trust rating [among national leaders]," the senator said, referring to the latest surveys on approval ratings of high government officials.

Told that the Vice President, as a spare tire, was expected to gain high approval ratings because he was not the main behind-the-wheel unlike President Aquino, Honasan said: "Public officials, elected or otherwise, are open targets. No exceptions. Pero (but) we're doing anything ... are being attacked," said the senator. Michael Lim Ubac

PH ignores Sino demand, 'that's ours, we'll not leave'

From page A1

been fired is already a sign that the situation is not deceptive, ng."

Arbitration call ignored

China and the Philippines have agreed to settle the dispute diplomatically but have both insisted on their ownership of the shoal, prolonging an eight-day standoff on the high seas.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario on Tuesday asked China to try bring the dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea for arbitration. The Chinese embassy however, ignored the proposal and asked the Philippines to withdraw its vessels from the shoal "and restore peace and stability there."

The latest standoff between Manila and Beijing over the disputed shoal in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) began on April 8 when a Philippine Navy plane spotted eight Chinese fishing boats in Panatag, a cluster of reefs and islands around a lagoon.

The Philippine Navy flag ship, BRP Gregorio del Pilar, was dispatched to the area on April 14 and its officers boarded the fishing boats, but a Chinese marshine surveillance vessel intervened. The fishing boats slipped away last Friday night.

The dispute is one of a myriad of conflicting claims over islands, reefs and shoals in the South China Sea that pit China against the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Tension has risen in the past two years over worries China is becoming more assertive in its claims to the area that includes shipping lanes between East Asia and Europe and the Middle East.

Although dormant countries have pledged to settle the territorial rifts peacefully, the disputes have erupted in violence in the past, including in 1988 when China and Vietnam clashed in the Spratly Islands in a confrontation that killed 64 Vietnamese soldiers. Many fear that the disputes would become Asia's next flash point for armed conflict.

Vietnam held a maritime ceremony on Monday near the area where the incident occurred to remember the dead soldiers, state-controlled media reported.

Several rounds of talks have failed to end the impasse at Panatag, which is 872 km from Hainan province, China's nearest territory to the shoal.

Ancient Chinese shipwreck

Chinese embassy spokesperson Zhang Hua has accused rulers of that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or Unclos, allows countries to claim an exclusive economic zone, he said the Philippines could not exercise sovereignty on areas within those waters that are owned by other countries.

An ancient Chinese shipwreck can be found off Panatag, but the Philippine consul-in-ship has no right to salvage it, Zhang said. "We urge the archaeological work on (water) in the area immediately," Zhang said in a statement.

'We will not leave'

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, in an interview with reporters, yesterday called on Filipinos to come together and let the world know that "we are being bullied" by China.

On Tuesday Gazmin said, "We will fight for what is ours. We are in the area and we will not leave what is ours since the talks" between the 10th and China authorities.

Also yesterday, Bayan Muna Representatives Teddy Casiño and Neri Colmenares filed a resolution condemning China's continued militarization of the disputed shoal.

"We also do not want to go to war, but we must never let our sovereignty through whatever means we can," Casiño said. Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz, Inquirer Visayas, and AP

China summons PH envoy over standoff

From page A1

the close attention of China," Liu said.

The Philippines plans to seek resolution at an international court, arguing that the shoal is well within the country's 200-nautical mile (370 kilometer) exclusive economic zone that is recognized under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. [Related story on Page A12.]

Legal evidence

Liu said the Philippines is set, staking international law by using the UN convention to call into question sovereignty over the territory known as Huangyan Island in Chinese.

"China has sufficient legal evidence for its jurisdiction over the Huangyan Island. China was the earliest to discovery and name the island, and has included it on maps and exercised its sovereignty over it since a," Liu said.

Liu said the Philippines never objected to China's control, or control of the shoal before 1997 and its claim now is "completely baseless."

The shoal is among numerous islands, reefs and coral outcrops in the South China Sea claimed by China, the Philippines and other countries for their potential oil and gas deposits, rich fishing grounds and proximity to busy commercial sea lanes.

The controversy flared on April 10 when two Chinese ships prevented a Philippine warship from arresting suspected Chinese fishermen who were accused of illegal entry and poaching. The fishermen slipped away from the shoal over the weekend, angering Filipino officials.

Manila lodged a protest with China on Monday, accusing one of the Chinese ships of an encroachment of Manila's Philippine-registered yacht that was conducting archaeological research in the shoal.

Liu said the tension started to ease after bilateral talks.

"We hope that the Philippines can stay with their side and control and pull back their ships as soon as possible, and resume peace and stability in waters near the Huangyan Island," Liu said. Reports from AP and Reuters

US envoy: War games with PH our common devotion to peace

From page A1

He added: "With our 20th Balikatan, we may all rest assured that what our two militaries carry out in the Philippines this week will be far greater than the sum of its parts. In other words, we accomplish together what we could never accomplish by ourselves. And that is what this endeavor is all about, shoulder to shoulder, maglikat Balikatan."

Asean members, too

Apart from the 2,500 Philippine troops and 4,500 US soldiers, several dozen participants from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and from other partner countries are also taking part in the military exercises, Thomas said.

"The gathering represents an unprecedented number of hours spent planning, bringing together the necessary assets and simply getting themselves here," Thomas said. "But the numbers do not tell the whole story. True to the meaning of Balikatan, this exercise is about a great partnership between the Philippines and the US," he said.

"This is about working together in the spirit of our 61-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty," Thomas added.

BALIKATAN 2012 Philippine and US officials (from left) Brig. Gen. Frederick Padilla, US exercise director Balikatan 2012, AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jesse Dellosa, Assistant Foreign Secretary Patricia Ann Paez, US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. and Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Emmanuel Martin. Philippine exercise director. Ink arms is symbolic only during the opening ceremony of the joint US-PH military exercise at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila on April 16. The Philippines hailed the start of major war games with the United States on April 16, as a timely lesson in the new nations' military alliance amid growing regional security challenges.

For its part, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said Balikatan was "designed to enhance both military forces' interoperability and will help in traditional military training but also in reaching out to communities in need of urgent assistance."

Running from April 16 to 27, the joint military exercises kicked off on Monday amid a standoff between the Philippines and China at Panatag Shoal, internationally known as Scarborough Shoal, in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

This year's Balikatan includes

field training exercises on counter-terrorism and maritime security in Palawan province; medical aid and jungle survival in the provinces of Nueva Ecija and Batanguas; and humanitarian aid and disaster response in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

As in past years, the two forces will work on civic projects, such as building classrooms, and conducting medical and dental missions in the communities hosting the exercises.

Fort Magsaysay

The first major field exercises will take place on April 21. The exercises will be held at Fort Magsaysay, the sprawling army training camp in Nueva Ecija.

The Philippine exercises spokesperson, Maj. Emmanuel Garcia, said the joint training would include combat-security maneuvers, platoon force attacks, explosive ordnance operations and community relations.

Simulated combat

On April 24, further exercises are scheduled to be conducted in Fort Magsaysay.

Aside from the previous exercises, live-fire exercises, medical training and simulated combat are to be conducted.

The exercises in Palawan will start on April 22 with a bilateral boat raid. An amphibious raid exercise will be conducted on April 25.

The nine-day large scale bilateral exercises will end on April 25.

Protests

On Monday the militant groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and the International League of People's Struggle (ILPS) launched a series of mass actions across the country to protest the Balikatan exercises.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said Balikatan was "the part of a bigger design to use Philippine territory for maneuvers future in the Philippines even without any formal basing treaty."

"The hype surrounding the failed Noah Keenan rudder launch and the US maneuvers in the Philippines are clear signs that the US maneuvers are clearly intended to justify the permanent presence of American troops in Philippine territory and the region," Reyes said. Reports from Jerry E. Esplanada and Tonie S. Panadigan

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21k	P600.00	P7,000.00	P5,000.00	P3,000.00
10k	P500.00	P5,000.00	P3,000.00	P2,000.00
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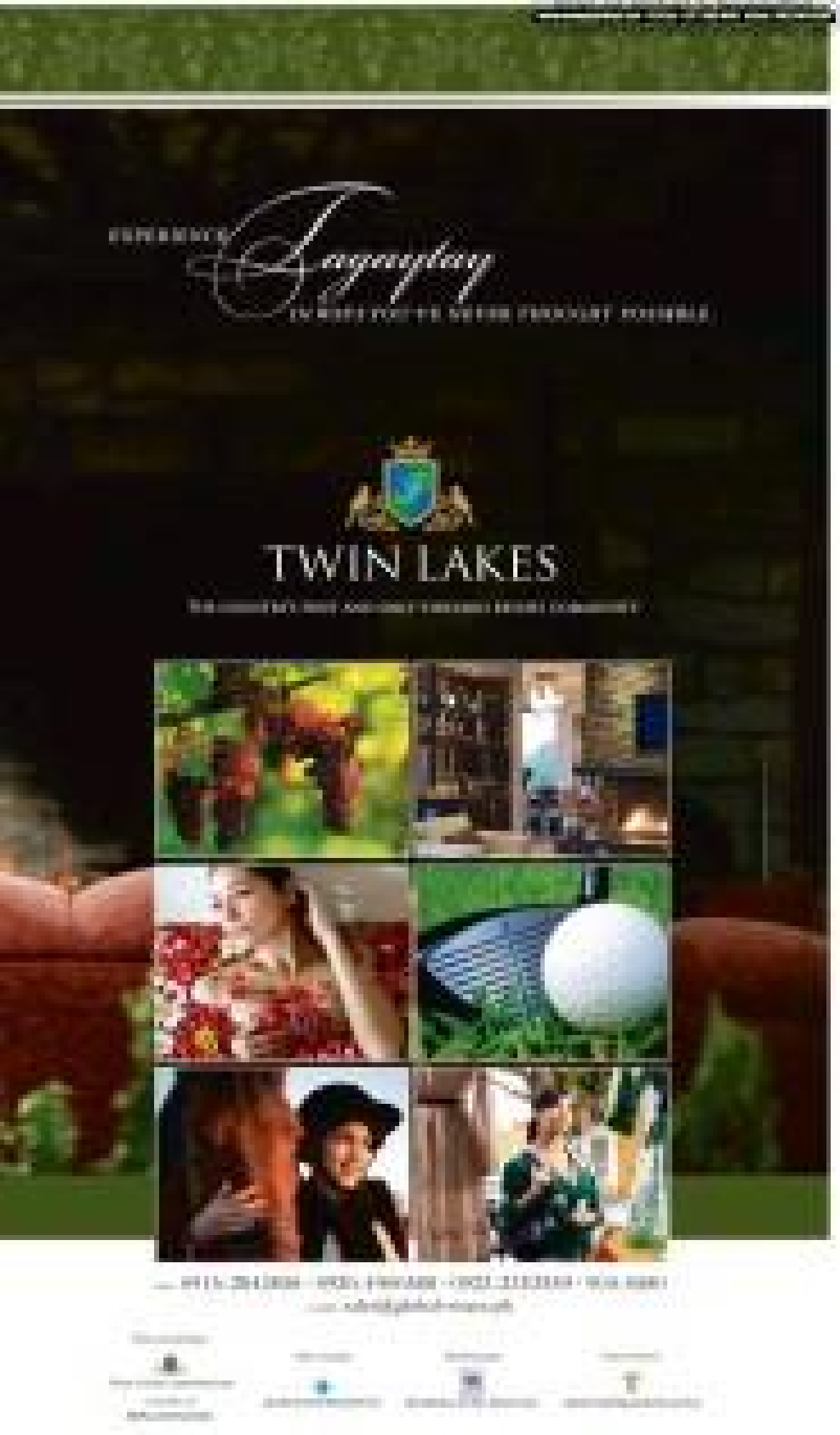
TWIN LAKES

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Ice on fire

EDITORIAL

IT'S SOMETHING to ponder in this murderous summer heat as 6,000 Filipino and American soldiers engage in large-scale training exercises under the Balikatan. Climate change is causing rising temperatures, which in turn are melting the ice in the Arctic at an alarming rate. And unbeknownst to much of the world, this almost mystical polar region has become a hive of military activity by countries anticipating the opening of "a treasure trove of resources."

That's the stuff of action movies right there, except that it's not fiction. The Associated Press reported early this week that the world's military leaders were preparing for "a new kind of Cold War" in the Arctic where the last melting sea ice could mean the opening of shipping lanes in a region that holds an estimated 13 percent of the planet's undiscovered oil and 30 percent of its untapped natural gas. Think of the potential conflicts between and among the world's powers, which may serve to explain the now fairly regular conduct of military training exercises such as "Exercise Cold Response" in Norway last March, "with 16,300 troops from 14 countries training on the ice for everything from high-intensity warfare to severe threats."

Major exercises were also held two months ago by the United States, Canada and Denmark. And, the AP report said further, the military chiefs of the seven main Arctic powers—Canada, the United States, Russia, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland—were scheduled to meet in May to discuss regional security issues.

With climate change and global warming, the melting of the Arctic sea ice means not only the opening of lucrative shipping lanes but also the flooding of the world's coastal cities. The Guardian reported in September 2011 that the ice was melting at its fastest pace in almost 40 years. It quoted scientists as saying that the ice had melted "to a level not recorded since satellite observations started in 1972—and almost certainly not experienced for at least 8,000 years." It said that if the trend continued, "a largely ice-free Arctic in the summer months" was likely in 20 years, or up to 40 years earlier than was projected in the last assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The last time this condition occurred in the summertime Arctic was 125,000 years ago, at the height of the last major interglacial period, The Guardian said.

This puts into unsettling perspective the current military activity in the Arctic, where the prospect of ice-free sea lanes has galvanized the United States and other world powers to strengthen their capabilities in the region. Think of the buildup of troops and arsenals in that pristine place where dwell such magnificent creatures as polar bears and penguins, and where, thanks to Discovery and National Geographic, the scrabbling certain and the awesome power of the elements serve as constant illustrations of the beauty of creation. Imagine the ice bruised and besmirched by military hardware, and nuclear-powered submarines shattering the surreal underwater peace; imagine the pollution staining the "lil Greco sky" (John Updike's phrase, summing up how "the clouds overhead were brooding up, exposing exclamatory fragments of blue").

Here in our motherland, in parts stewing in natural temperatures and in others swamped by unseasonal rain, the dangers posed by military exercises or ecological systems were raised last Monday by marine scientist Perry Aliño and conservation groups in connection with the Balikatan amphibious training activities in Palawan, which faces that potential flash point, the West Philippine Sea. Aliño said the building of military structures in the area had affected sharks and other marine wildlife. Frances Quimpo of the party-list group Kalikasan observed that past Balikatan naval maneuvers and live firing exercises had led to the destruction of coral reefs. Also, Quimpo pointed out, these exercises involved the unmitigated use of massive amounts of fossil fuels and the release of large volumes of toxic wastes into the air, land and sea.

It's ironic that all these things are occurring as the world prepares to mark International Earth Day on April 22. It's as though the world's powers were cavalierly rolling the dice. Remember that the Kyoto Protocol, the first international agreement to fight global warming signed by 141 nations, expires this year. It should be to the condemning shame of the United States, which is among the biggest consumers of fossil fuels, that it refused to be a signatory.

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The unsinkable Erap

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

MY BIG mahn his 75th birthday today, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, the one the masses affectingly call "Erap," has all the reason to look back at his already political career of 40 years, and say, he's not done yet. No other president, apart from Ramon Magsaysay and Cory Aquino, has been able to retain the loyalty and adulation of the ordinary Filipino as much as Erap has.

Analysts had scoffed at his bid to reacquire the presidency in 2010. He lacks the kind of social background usually the name number of votes that he got in 1998 when he was elected president. The affection that the masses have lavished on his translative into electoral votes not only for himself but also for persons with whom he's identified, like his wife and son. The second-term he contended is between 9 and 10 million, roughly 15 percent of the national vote.

A recent Pulse Asia survey reports the value of an endorsement given by the nation's key political leaders in the 2013 senatorial elections. Topping this list of vote-getting endorsers is Vice President Jejomar Binay at 70 percent, followed by President Aquino at 68 percent, and Erap at 51 percent. This is fascinating, to say the least.

Aquino and Binay won victories in the last election, and Binay himself is reported to be the strongest contender for the presidency in 2016. Erap holds no office and is not even making moves, yet he commands a political clout powerful. The same survey shows that, in contrast, an endorsement from the incumbent former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be a kiss of death for any senatorial candidate. Up to 59 percent of those surveyed said they would reject any candidate she endorses.

What we have here is the remarkable political fashion in a set of personalities representing differing profiles of political leadership in the post-Marcos years.

Cory Aquino, and by extension PNoy, is the figure of moral leadership. Its constituency cuts across all social classes. Its power resides in its capacity to transcend class disparities so as to create in the image of a unified moral community. Its vision is of a nation that can overcome the complex problems posed by corruption in government through the power of personal ethical example. Its approach to the problem of mass poverty owes less to any structural analysis that prescribes redistribution than to the spirit of charity and sharing that leaves the unequal social order untouched. It remains a powerful vision despite its palpable failure to lift the masses from the pit of poverty.

Erap, and now Binay, is the figure of populist leadership. Its constituency comes from the lower "D" and "E" social strata, which roughly correspond to more than half of our people who suffer from chronic economic insecurity and social exclusion. The drawing power of populist leadership resides in its ability to articulate the frustration and hopes of the underclasses in a deeply hierarchical society. Its preferred vocabulary taps into stories of class resentments against a profligate ruling oligarchy, even while its own icons may not themselves be paragons of frugal living. Its social solutions to the problem of poverty are limited and often ineffectual, as they tend to be ameliorative in an approach to governance.

And, lastly, there's Macapagal-Arroyo, who rose in the presidency by a fluke. She represents the figure of technocratic leadership, at least during the early years when she assisted cannons to serve out the remaining term of the daily electoral president she replaced after a mid-dle class based, civilian-military coup caused him.

Edsa Dos' mandate came from the fact that she was taking over the reins of government from an administration that appeared to be mired in unprofessionalism and lack of appreciation of the urgent challenges of a highly competitive world. Highly educated and politically prodigious, she traveled extensively and projected herself abroad as the modernist leader of an emerging economy who understood the long-term requirements of governance and sustainable development. Alas, all her professions to modernity collapsed when, in the face of recurrent challenges to her legitimacy, she sought refuge in the well-trodden path of a transactional presidency.

Had GMA remained committed to the project of a modern state, building institutions while ignoring personal influences, and promoting economic sectors that are not the preserve of landed privileges, she would have blazed a wide path for a new generation of reform-minded politicians. Her ignominious record as president has only made it even more difficult for educated leaders with a modern outlook to be trusted by the electorate.

On the other hand, the rise of Erap—who gained enormous popularity from his association with Cory Aquino and Erap Estrada—shows that Philippine politics remains rooted to the alternating impulses of moralism and populism. No one would have thought this of Estrada in 2001, after Erap was forced to resign Malacañang. But, seven years later, in 2008, Cory anguished everyone when she told Erap she was sorry he lost role in his removal. She said it was a mistake.

To this day many have not understood the full significance of Cory's gesture. The way it appeared to me is rooted only one message: their was the seat of moral leadership bowing to the authority of the people's will.

public.line@gmail.com

Sting like a bee

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DEN REPORT, by Ed Cabuenagan, and I hear Manny Dacquiao may sting like a bee in the ring, but he floats like a butterfly outside of it. He's about to join PDP-Laban, which has made an alliance with Erap's Puwera ng Masang Pilipino to form UNA. That makes it the fifth political party he has joined in five years.

Rep. Jean Negata can't understand why he's doing this. "Dacman can actually win without a political party or whichever political party he chooses to join because of his enormous popularity and the capacity to single-handedly fund his own political campaigns."

Well, it's not entirely surprising. Dacquiao has lost once before (to Democrito Antonio Trillanes) when he was his congressional, and that wasn't because his candidacy was a complete affront to the 58th

Vicious Corona detractor is fictitious

"STEVE VESPERA, Esq." has managed to hear at least a dozen of his letters to the editor published in this paper, the latest just last week, recently bathing mid at Chief Justice Renato Corona. "Steve" is a redoubtable lout. Hundreds of letters are sent to this paper bragging about his prowess. Although with an arrogant and self-righteous style, "Steve's" letters show such extensive knowledge of Philippine law that those who read as if written by a lawyer—or someone familiar with the law at least.

Those letters have been circulated by him in typescript, even reported as written by an "Associate columnist." Others have devoted their letters angrily debunking "Vesperos" sequiturs.

However, "Steve S. Vespera, Esq." does not exist.

It is so also obviously used by the black ops operatives of President Aquino to feed his agenda the Chief Justice. "Vespera" is more than administration's most successful shadowy feature on modern of the country's biggest and most respected newspapers.

As I explained last week, the first step to demolishing a character is to create a fictional substitute as an illusion; it is not to check if there is any reference to it in the Internet, using the most recent engines. "People research" has become a booming Internet business, with websites such as peoplefinders.com, peoplesearch.com and 123people.com for a fee, billions of public and private documents.

No search engine reports a "Steve Vespera," but the Filipino even has that surname; only a handful of people on the planet do, with those with the first name Steve or its variations. The closest to that name—perhaps not a coincidence at all—is ex-"Talinadio Pilipinas," who is an undersecretary at the Presidential Communications Operations Office.

A "Stephen Vespera," though, has a Facebook account. Since it's as sketchy and inactive that it was obviously set up only to have a fictitious digital presence. The only info there: "1" and a hopeless man. Studied at the dream At Manila University. Lives in Caloocan. Cebu City.

There is no Vespera level studying at the dream, none was living in Cebu—so the entire country

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

The Philippines actually is well-served, and poorly, but most name in digital databases. For instance, when Pangasinan gift lord Willy Lagumbay, with one, as Steve, living at "234 Rosedale St."

There is no Vespera listed with whatever first name in those white pages.

Mr. Aquino's black ops agents changed their minds on urban profile to give Vespera. A "legal consultant" writing about legal issues won't be as credible as a lawyer. So they got "Esq." after his name to make him a "Ed Ass lawyer" in the US, practicing in "Seymour, NY." That is a blunder since there are official lists of lawyers here and in the US.

There is no Steve, Stephen, or Steven Vespera in any roster of lawyers in the US and in the Philippines.

Revenges were made by third parties to contact "Vespera" through his purported e-mail, steveS888@yahoo.com. No reply at all.

"Steve Vespera, Esq." is a fabricated name, obviously used by Mr. Aquino's camp in its efforts to smear Chief Justice to ease off the most ruthless and well-funded black propaganda campaign against an incumbent I've seen in my years as a journalist.

That group would be as good as mine. Writing as "Vespera" could be prosecuted for libel. Let's write Lacson who is a lawyer, Willy Gaudiosa and his team of hacks be pilloried with top of the line blackmails last year; the humbling yet acrimonious spokesmen; or a Supreme Court justice who desperately wants Corona removed.

However, there is a duo who the prime suspect using the "Vespera" alias would be. A website post at 10:08 am e-mailed angry comment against then President Arroyo. The author identified himself as "U.L. Mosquera," is a lawyer, one Stephen L. Monsanto who has managed to get out of his letters published in this newspaper, with the same ecstatic and vicious writing style as "Vespera." Last year he was a supporter of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. When Corona's ouster started, he urged against the Chief Justice. When Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago lambasted the prosecution panel, Monsanto gushed in her praise, comparing her thus to the International Court of Justice where she will be a member of, she would turned be "the egregious representative of the last criminal mind left entirely free to offer the world."

Monsanto is from the Ateneo de Ateneo School Class of 1974, which is, quite outrageously, Chief Justice Corona's class. Other than his sudden emergence as a prolific writer spewing venom against the Chief Justice, Monsanto has had an unremarkable legal career, reportedly she has not succeeded in that class.

In "Vespera" simply Monsanto's alias he uses, as he can have that cheaper print issue of his writings? Both have the vocabulary of lawyers who has never figured to any social or political crusade before suddenly taken on the task of removing the Chief Justice at his life's mission? Are "Monsanto" and "Vespera" merely pseudonyms Mr. Aquino's propagandists employ?

If "Vespera" got away with a dozen letters against Corona published, Mr. Aquino's other operatives have most probably also succeeded doing so using the same tactics: repeated e-mail media venues to make it appear that their propaganda were sentiments of ordinary people.

If closer calling for the lynching of Corona hide in alliance online Senator Dey are cowards, paid hacks, or human rights violators? Or are they those are writing, would you believe their bubble?

If Mr. Aquino's camp already has the support of mainstream media, if it can buy expensive full-page ads in newspapers, and if the President himself rails against the Chief Justice, yet it still resorts to spurious letters to the editor, would you still believe it has moral ascendancy?

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Volunteering is fun

ABUJA—I domestic flight, as I was contemplating my 2010 New Year's resolution, my attention was caught by an ad in the in-flight magazine. It was a call for volunteers to share skills and change lives as part of a nongovernmental organization. I sent in my application shortly sensing that seeing the ad at that moment was a gift. I asked to volunteer in the Philippines, but the NGO had no national volunteering programs, so I was sent abroad.

My current volunteer placement is in Uganda, East Africa, specifically to Gulu, which was recently made famous by Invisible Children's Kony 2012 video. I have not seen the film but I can say that Gulu, the epicenter of the 20-year conflict in Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, is now peaceful. The government of Uganda, donor community and international NGOs work hand in hand to implement the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda. The people from the schools and Langi culture are very welcoming and friendly. Even after they were forced to live in camps for internally displaced people, are being assisted to return to their normal lives after the camps were closed in 2009. Gulu is buzzing with many national NGOs whose development programs are mainly on education, health and livelihood. It is also not surprising that some countries display their economic leverage by sponsoring programs that can expand trilateral international trade.

I am just a dot in this collaborative effort to change lives. But there are many dots here like me...men and women who, their children all grown and leaving behind an empty nest of older folks who have experiences and skills to share, are still active and would rather continue to live and work in some life-changing environment.

At I suffered now on my decision to quit my job and become a volunteer. I realize that unknowingly, I fell into the pattern of human motivation introduced in 1943 by Abraham Maslow in his concept of a hierarchy of needs. According to Maslow, a psychologist, people are motivated by five types of needs: physiological, security, social, esteem, and self-actualization. If you get all you need, you are bound to move to the next level until you reach the highest growth motivation. Is my decision to be part of an NGO, I feel that I have moved to the self-actualization level of need as a volunteer's role is to help others reach their full potential.

Other than the formal qualifications that you carry in response to the needs of the people among whom you are stationed, you bring in the place what you are, your personality values, habits, upbringing, work ethics, beliefs and superstitions, language, mannerisms, and personal effects from home. As a volunteer, I always try to blend in rather than draw attention. I point out the exercises and conceives that these might be due to cultural differences. For example, putting is taught as final manners back home, but in the locality, it is as normal as a greeting. If they like what they see and hear from you, it is likely that they will emulate those. A volunteer should not be afraid to show his or her frame of being adaptable, and a volunteer could also learn from the locals.

Volunteering is like being in solitary confinement, and in your solitude you have the time to examine yourself. Volunteering made me appreciate the fruits derived from all my failures in my past jobs. It is only now that I realize that things along the way as coursework, staying in a 5-star hotel and paying $300 per night as business trip entitlement when you only need it for sleeping and using the toilet and bath, pampering the body with frequent visits to salons and spas to relieve you of self-induced stress, dining around with all the sumptuous meals are luxuries of the heart and dust, finding occasions to eat in high-end dining places because they were well advertised, as long you're right to expect value for money because you have chosen to bring your business elsewhere, you manage to still live frugally and save so that your children and your grandchildren will not have to depend on parents' generosity for sustainability, and assist them to grow to your feet, give alms, and help your followings. Indeed, I found pleasure in all my labor and for all my labor, that was my reward. So everything is futile and a chasing of the wind (Ecclesiastes).

Living in what must to be a "no man's land" until three years ago, did I miss the comforts that I left behind? Did I long for the night and meet of the friends that I have acquired from my toil? Did I feel deprived because with the little money that I have, I could not spend it even on useless things? Did I miss my family and friends? Surprisingly, I did not. I was satisfied with how my family members managed their lives and well-being while I was away. Thanks to the wonders of Facebook, Skype, mobile phones, I felt I had never left home.

Being an international volunteer is a good badge for the local community to accept us into the nucleus of their society since being different (particularly in appearance). Foreign women wearing pants is tolerated although I still have to get used to the sight of men wearing skirts, long flowing cloaks, and brown-dusting sarongs, anywhere. Using an umbrella or wearing a hat can make you an object of curiosity. Children and when they see a person with white skin or light colored hair.

Whistling by pots the stones to both the church and mass. There are also those of the politicians and bureaucrats who run the town because they know that you are well-meaning and they need to learn how it is out there. The church, true to its mission, is just too happy to provide social and face-to-face spiritual comfort to a member of the flock who is in long separation from family and friends.

In Maslow's narrow definition of self-actualizers, he says that they need the following in their lives in order to be happy: truth, rather than dishonesty; goodness, rather than evil; beauty, not ugliness or vulgarity; unity, wholeness and transcendence of opposites, not arbitrariness or forced division; aliveness, richness, fullness not thinness or loss of life; uniqueness, not bland uniformity; perfection and necessity, not dispersion; completion, or accident; completion, rather than incompleteness; justice and orderliness, not injustice and lawlessness; simplicity, not unnecessary complexity; richness, not environmental impoverishment; effortlessness, not strain or clumsiness; not dependency; meaningfulness, rather than senselessness.

In the last third of my life, whether back home or elsewhere, I will pursue those needs and satisfy them the best I can. When all else fails, I will just take things as God gives them to me. *Carpe diem* (Seize the day), says my parish priest here.

Eva Avila is a former assistant governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. She is now in Gulu, Uganda, as a volunteer of a UK-based charity organization and keeps a blog at www.ilikegood.com.

HIGH BLOOD

Eva Avila

WE Dodo like to know the contents of the sanguinolding and others. Some of my friends have had their blood tested, either once or twice, but I think that's all. I don't know if I should feel ashamed or proud that I've never had my blood taken. Maybe I'm just afraid of needles. Or maybe I'm afraid that I'll find out that I'm not as healthy as I think I am

Attention, legislators: 'Sin tax' reforms needed

LETTERS

THE EDITORIAL, "Sensible sin taxes" (04/05/12), is spot-on, timely, and a matter that should be given much more importance by our legislators who are seriously remiss.

Indeed, it is about time our current "sin tax" regime was changed. The billions of pesos in revenues lost each year due to tobacco were not enacted could have gone a long way in improving public welfare, services, and infrastructure, and in easing the ever-increasing debt of the government. The increasing public health expenditure due to tobacco-related diseases should also be recognized.

Since smoking is not illegal, the regulations imposed on it should at least be the for all the players—not just the tobacco companies that are the government and the consumers. Our Constitution provides that "the rule of taxation shall be uniform and equitable." With the ensuing price disadvantage from the 1996 excise, however, one can see but wonder: Why is such a scheme allowed for an industry that provides a product that has been proven harmful to health?

Yet, the plight of tobacco farmers and workers in the tobacco industry is a valid concern. But so is the unfair advantage granted to these companies. The answer to these are implemented, the earlier this happens, the earlier we will be able to adapt to and develop as an economy aware of livelihood that will be much more beneficial for them.

Only the wisdom of our legislators can rectify this unjust situation. It is only for a unified and legislators to foster a deeper understanding of the situation, and accordingly deal with it with a sense of urgency lately does not necessarily dictate that the tobacco companies shall lose, but equity declares that their gets what is right and due.

Clearly, this unjust situation has been going on for too long. We need less "sin tax" reforms urgently.

—JUDAS CLEO ENDOZA,
Action for Economic Reforms,
122 Mesa Avenue, Quezon City

FAO cited as source

I FEEL I owe the public and Asst. Secretary Lito Banayo's response, to "Why 100% imported rice is more expensive" (Inquirer, 4/5/12). Tagalicod said he hoped that I should check "the veracity of my assertions and enrich my rhetoric to explain why the cost food industry's (NFA) imports "are comparable to what the benchmark price at any given time".

I. Only (100-based) price benchmarks—"farmer-based" as true—for 25 percent brokens, are posted, while the FOBs for other rice grades (5 to percent and 5 percent broken) exist.

2. In hearing all three rice grades, only one price is reflected in the NFA auctions. Tagalicod suggests that NFA import only the 25 percent brokens to lower the cost of rice.

Following his suggestion that I check the "veracity of my assertions," may I present for consideration the following.

In our letter titled "Rice importers to favor Filipino farmers" (Inquirer, 2/22/12), we noted NFA's CIF procurements in June 2008, and in December 2008. The FOB benchmarks were not received from the farmers, but from the Trade and Industry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome—June 2008, $724 for 25 percent brokens; $695 for 15 percent brokens; and $666 for 5 percent brokens; December 2008, $525 for 25 percent brokens; $508 for 15 percent brokens; and $485 for 5 percent brokens. The 25 percent brokens, priced cheaper than the 15 percent and 5 percent rice grades by $68-$190, accounted for nearly all of NFA importations.

Take note of the contracted prices in 2008: $949 in June, and $530 in December. NFA (Cebu) chickening it as a position to publish the text, as the NFA website does not itemize the subsidy by grades. Moreover, other internal factors do not make benchmarks less credible, less ballast-dismissive or so-so.

In March 2012, the NFA contracted 200,000 mt of 25-percent brokens at $480/mt on the understanding were and rice grain at the average import cost $642 in December 2008. Again the benchmarks: $522 in March, and during deliveries $422 (April), $450 (May) and $430 (June).

Since's President Aquino already addressed expensive NFA importations in March 2011?

—MANUEL Q. MONDEJAR,
manolimondejar@yahoo.com

Political will is what's needed to beat illegal gambling

THE COMMENT of policeman Alex Balaoro of Legazpi City ("PCSO's pipe dream," Inquirer, 3/30/12) that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's Lotteria ng Bayan (PLB) will not solve "jueteng" operations, is telling the same dog in the notorious Small Town Lottery (STL), appears to be a definitive approach to exempting out the illegal numbers game.

The Movement for Transparency in Lottery and Legal Gaming believes that if the Philippine National Police were an sincere and committed on bets jueteng and other forms of illegal gambling as President Aquino is in his campaign, jueteng will be a game in the past. It really is just a question of political will.

STL was conceived as a legal source of additional funds for PCSO and local government units to finance their charitable and medical programs, aside from eliminating jueteng. But after a few years of operation on what former PCSO chair Rafael Montes called "regularization" basis, STL was "guaranteed" by jueteng lords protected by politicians and corrupt cops, thus positioning the cohesion of gambling entities than whatever consistency.

Clearly, STL failed during the Arroyo administration because corrupt local officials and policemen dipped their fingers into it, instead of remitting billion from jueteng, lords were enforcing the law regardless of who got hurt. It is sad to note that even if PLB has yet to be launched, some policemen have seemingly already sensed the wind's flag, as if saying they can't make it a success. This seemingly undermines the efforts and resolve of interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and PAGCOR Director General Cristino Naguiat Jr.

But since STL has been discredited as a front for jueteng and a "stalking zone of crooked politicians, PLB should now be implemented in cooperation with new and clean-record franchise operators. This must be coupled with an immediate law enforcement against illegal gambling and other sanctions against erring operators and corrupt PCSO and law enforcers.

Despite its "STL critics," Balaoro sincerely Chiefs the PCSO and PNP have to be politicized as it encourages our illegal gambling addiction fair or favor.

ISRAEL I. TABAYE,
chairman,
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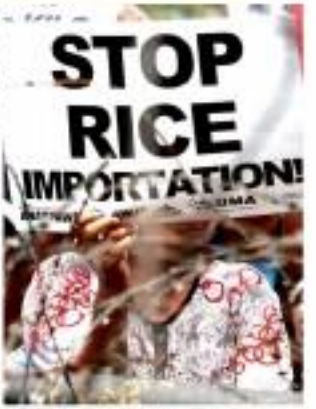

A MEMBER of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas directs a message to President Aquino in a Tuesday rally on Mendiola Bridge.

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'Litratistas' fade away from park scene

All of them are now history with the iPhone and digicam available to visitors

FELIMON PITA, founder of the defunct Perez Park Photographers Association in 1960s

By Dalle T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

WHEN 78-YEAR-OLD Felimon Pita returned to Lucena City in Quezon province in early 2000 after more than two decades of working in the United States, he first went to the sprawling Perez Park to meet his former buddies.

"Most of them were all gone. Some had already died, others were sick from old age and the rest just clinging on to what was left of the trade just to survive," Pita recalled.

Pita was once president of the defunct Perez Park Photographers Association, which was founded in the 1960s and composed of literalistas plying their trade at the park in front of the old Capitol building. The members were Batangs there from dawn to dusk, ready to click using their SLR (single lens reflex) cameras at strollers for souvenir photos.

"With a deposit of P2 or sometimes less, we took photos of park visitors. After a few hours or at the agreed date, we gave them their newly developed black-and-white photos for which the customer paid in full," Pita said.

He recalled that the photographers would often serve as guides and lead visitors to the park's beautiful spots as background for their shots. "We even coached our customers on how to execute striking poses," he added.

The club members, he said, had their own regular customer(s), mostly house helpers spending their day off.

Empowering visitors

All of them are now history, Pita said, citing the advent of the iPhone and digicam. Visitors themselves take the photos.

"The park photographer is now getting extinct," the old man lamented.

PICTURE, PICTURE Teenage girls pose for a souvenir photo taken with a cellphone camera at Perez Park in Lucena City. [illegible]

Hope Gonzales, 78, still works the park premises on one of the metal benches. An unopened film-feed camera hangs around his neck.

In the good old days, Gonzales said, earning P500 to P600 a day was peanuts. Now, he often ends the day without any client.

The 62-year-old Perez Park is one of the original outdoor parks in the country, featuring four blocks, it is frequented by students rehearsing dance routines.

Rehabilitation

A mountain cave in the center also doubles as a bandstand where top musicians in the 1920s and 1930s used to perform for free to residents occupying two-storied galleries. However, in early 2008, the galleries were demolished when the park underwent rehabilitation during the administration of then Gov. Wilfredo Enverga.

The original earthen design was lost when the ground was flattened and the space between the first and second blocks was reclaimed as an event area. But most of the time, the place serves as parking space.

Promise from the city residents feared the provincial government to shelve its plan to alter the other original four-level balconies of the other blocks. "But damage had already been done. They already destroyed the original beauty of the park," Pita said.

A new map of Quezon, made up of beauties representing the municipalities, and a statue in the middle of a billboard with customer images of a teacher, policeman, road workers and white-collar state employees are found in the park.

Going digital

Incumbent Gov. David Suarez restored the popular colored jet fountain in front of the monument of the late President Manuel L. Quezon.

Enrique Ramos, 64, who joined the park photographers in 1990, is trying to ride the digital explosion. He planned a second-hand point-and-shoot camera that he bought for P2,000 during a pawnshop auction.

But even with a digital camera, getting a customer is a daily struggle, Ramos said. To earn extra, he does carpentry work to construction projects.

Wa Eddie Montenegro, 51, who bought his first digicam for P17,000, the shift from film to micro SD (storage disk) or CF (compact flash) card is inevitable.

Now sickly, he hoped that professional park photographers can still harness from oblivion. He reminded visitors that a numerous iconic taken by professional photographers was much superior in quality and content than that haphazardly taken with a cell phone.

"It hadn't but beautiful photo in a frame is more memorable and exciting to look at than just being one of many photo files in a personal computer or cell phone," Pita philosophized.

Maligayang Kaarawan
Pangulong
ERAP
April 19, 2012

JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA
Ama ng Masa

Hangad namin ang marami pang taon ng kalakasan para sa inyong tapat na adhikain para sa kapakanan ng sambayanang Pilipino.

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Across the NATION

Govs defy P-Noy on power plant sale

By Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao governors continue to oppose plans to sell hydroelectric plants in the island, insisting that solutions to the power crisis currently gripping Mindanao need not lead to higher electricity costs as President Aquino stressed during a summit on the crisis last April 15.

Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario conveyed the governors' stance to the President during the summit and reiterated last Tuesday that the governors' position will not change.

Two major hydroelectric plants—Agus and Pulangui—would be sold to the private sector under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Mr. Aquino, during the summit, said this was part of the solution to Mindanao's power crisis.

On Tuesday, the governors reiterated their opposition to the sale and insisted that unresolved issues in Epira were among the ways out of the crisis.

The governors reiterated their position a day after the President said he was willing to dialogue further with Mindanao officials, civil society and consumer groups on the power crisis.

"Let's shatter the myth that the Napocor (National Power Corp.) and the Agus-Pulangi complex are a losing proposition," Del Rosario said.

ELECTRIC fans repaired by this store in Davao City may serve just as display items as electricity supply in the city and a large part of Mindanao continues to be erratic. EDWIN BACASMAS

It is in any indication that generating power is not a losing venture for governments, Del Rosario promised what he said was Napocor's income last year—P38.9 billion in annual gross generation revenue and an average profit margin of 973.12 billion.

Surigao del Sur Gov. Johnny Pimentel said instead of selling the power plants, the government should rehabilitate these, which is what exactly government plans to do with Agus 6 and Pulangi which might cost P9 billion and take 18 months.

Agusan del Sur Gov. Edelwina Plaza said selling the two hydropower plants could lead to unreasonable rates and monopoly.

Agusan del Norte Gov. Edgardo Jalosjos said higher power costs would simply stop investments from coming in Mindanao.

"Privatizing the power plants, which currently provide us a cheaper source of power, would evidence Mindanao's inadequacy to attract more investments," Amante said.

South Cotabato Gov. Arthur Pingoy said the governors are sticking to their position opposing the sale of the hydropower plants.

North Cotabato Gov. Lala Taliño-Mendoza said she was hoping the President would listen to them.

"We wish he (Mr. Aquino) would take a second look at our resolution," Mendoza said.

Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas agreed, saying: "He already heard the sentiments of the people of Mindanao during the summit. Although he has the power to exercise as President, he must also review our resolution."

Del Rosario said Napocor should resume its Operational Management Agreement with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM), which required Napocor to remit all its earnings in PSALM, including those from the Agus and Pulangui hydropower plants.

"It is high time that Napocor should stop whatever and be allowed to run its affairs," Del Rosario said.

He said Epira has been a bane to Mindanao for the last 11 years and should be reviewed by Congress.

He said selling the hydropower plants to the private sector would simply worsen the situation.

"It is bad enough as it is. It will be lender-title since it is surrendered to the private sector," he said.

Del Rosario also called for the unbundling/sales of power generation from as "inefficient" and place a cap on these firms' profits. He said some independent power producers earn up to 30 percent return on investment, "which is too much."

"Just a 1-centavo per kilowatt-hour increase imposed nationally translates into a P670-million annual income," said the governor, adding it was done for Ilo Aquino to appoint a Mindanao consumer group representative to the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno said one good thing that the summit brought was to open the lines of communication between the people of Mindanao and officials who have the power to decide the future of the island's electric supply.

He also thanked the Chief Executive, that is the best we can do," Moreno said. Reports from Gwendolina Lacorte, Primitivo L. Lim, Franklin Caliguid, Aelle S. Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem, Orlando Rioca, Bobby Lagsa, Inquirer Mindanao

Robredo tells Atis they can stay on Boracay land

By Nestor P. Burgio Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The Ati tribe in Boracay Island would not be removed from the ancestral land that they occupied on Tuesday even without a writ of possession, according to Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

But Robredo directed local officials to implement "access zone" and prevent structures from being built by the tribe or anyone else on the land to Barangay Manoc-Manoc, Malay town, in Boracay.

"They can stay there as long as they do not occupy structures by other claimants and they will not exceed the lines they have reviewed," Robredo said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

The tribe agreed to limit to 10 members those who would stay in the enclosed area at night, said Fr. Vicente Elano of Holy Rosary Parish in Manoc, which had been living among and helping the tribe.

The 81 tribe has been staying on a 1.5-square community in Sitio Boracay in Barangay Balabag but has been continuously threatened with eviction by claimants.

Chief Insp. Christopher Presgan, the chief of the Boracay Tourist Assistance Center, said policemen have been deployed to the area to maintain order.

Firm protests port takeover by mayor, says it would sue

By Madonna Virola
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CALAPAN CITY—The Subiquen Port in Dortlerend Minchen has been marred by a dispute since early this year after the municipal government of Subiquen took over the management of arrastre services from cargo handling operator Tansan Arrastre and Stevedoring Inc. (TASI).

In a complaint filed at the provincial board of Occidental Minchen on March 26, Eugene Rubia, the president and general manager of TASI, threatened to file charges of graft and corruption against Subiquen Mayor Ricardo Guillozon for the city's alleged illegal takeover of arrastre services at the port in February.

Rubia said a municipal council resolution on March 2, 2010, authorized then Mayor Godofredo Bilatto to enter into a memorandum of agreement with TASI for cargo-handling services at the port.

But on Feb. 20 this year, Rubia said first term Mayor Guillano issued a business permit to the Subiquen Arrastre and Stevedoring Services Cooperative (SASSC) even if SASSC did not have any contract with the municipality.

Rubia also claimed harassment by Guillano after TASI's application for renewal of business permit was denied on Feb. 28.

Asked for his reply, Guillano, in an e-mail sent by an assistant on April 13, said "we have not received a copy of the formal complaint so we cannot reply accordingly."

But Guillano said the resolution authorizing Bilatto to enter into a contract with TASI was "questionable" as TASI is owned by Elvira Alava Bubia, a sister of the former mayor.

The takeover of cargo-handling services at the port was "within its mandate to promote the general public's welfare," the mayor said.

Reporter sues cop chief for abuses

GLOBAL CITY—A tabloid reporter said this city's police chief he allegedly threw, using him during coverage of a hostage-taking situation here early this month.

Local reporters and officials of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines accompanied Randy Datu in filing the complaint for grave threats, grave oral defamation and grave coercion against the city police chief, Senior Supt. Christopher Tambungan, at the city prosecutor's office on Wednesday.

TAMBUNGAN

The Inquirer reporter tried but failed to reach Tambungan for his reaction to Datu's complaint.

But in an April 12 letter that he sent to the tabloid editor and publisher, Tambungan called Datu's complaint a "blatant attempt to [tarnish] my reputation as a police officer."

Datu said while he and other reporters were covering the hostage-taking in Barangay West Rizal, Globe on April 3, he was "harassed, abused and hit at the back by [Tambungan]."

A policeman, Datu said, asked reporters to validate certain incidents with the hostage-taker, upon the hostage-taker's request.

Obliging the policeman who requested help, Datu and other reporters entered the compound.

But Tambungan singled out Datu. When Datu told Tambungan that he was there to cover, Tambungan dismissed him and said, "You're not needed here. Get out!"

Datu said Tambungan waved his fist as if to punch him, grabbed his shoulder and pushed him.

He said Tambungan pushed him out of the compound and hit him in the back. Robert Quezonga, Inquirer General Luzon

Check of tree transfer site shows no tree cut, says mall

BAGUIO CITY—Shopping mall giant SM on Wednesday allowed protesting Baguio residents to inspect a section of Luneta Hill where it completed cut trees from an expansion site of SM City Baguio.

The transfer of these trees is the subject of a civil case filed by the Cordillera Global Network (CGN), a group composed of residents, environmentalists, artists and students.

The relocation of 162 trees through roots-balling had been frozen by a temporary environmental protection order (Tepo) issued last week by Baguio Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Reyeres.

Siets Matuz, the SM impersonality-size president for operations, said the relocation is properly handled under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and experts from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

No tree cut

No tree was found cut in the area as claimed earlier by protesters.

Michael Dungayan, an environmentalist who launched the campaign to save the trees, and DENR-Cordillera officials who joined the inspection, checked the stubbles of 40 pine trees and a Benguet pine tree that were transferred before SM handed the Tepo and stopped earth balling activities to the mall compound.

The group found at least five pine trees with its roots already exposed and dried and ready for transplanting. Matuz said the trees would have been relocated had the Tepo not been enforced.

"Immediately, we requested the court that it allow us to start saving the three trees [and that the rest] to be transplanted immediately to ensure that they survive the trauma of relocation," Matuz said.

The mall has set up lines of water hoses around the trees to maintain ground moisture.

But the inspection did not satisfy CGN.

Gloria Abaoy, the CGN president, said they have decided to back out of a dialogue brokered by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and would instead rely on the decision of the court.

Tepo extended

Matuz said the company sent its lawyers to Baguio to receive a copy of the Tepo and has been abiding by the directive.

Lacuna extended the Tepo validity until the CGN petition to stop the expansion is resolved.

In a statement, DENR said it also directed to the Inspection team from the Department of Interior and Local Government, DENR, Baguio City Hall and forestry experts the soil erosion on the steeply sloping terrain at the back of the mall that prompted the redevelopment plans.

Bitates, who was present during the inspection, was quoted by the statement as saying that after the discovery of the erosion, the mall's planning group sometime in 2008 suggested building retaining walls to subside land slide-affected areas of the slope.

"We went further to plan a padding building to ease the traffic on Session Road, which would also result in lessening the air pollution in the area. To justify the building cost, we added some shopping spaces in the open air levels," the statement quoted him as saying.

"So they were able to see, we have not cut any tree," he said.

Florante Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

HOUSE OF WAGYU STONE GRILL

MANILA BAY BRANCH OPENING PROMO - APRIL 19-30

Prime Plaza, Tect-Com Bldg., (beside Mall of Asia) 5530437

HOUSE OF WAGYU STONE GRILL

THE PODIUM 6353856/6365889 | EASTWOOD MALL 7065865-86 | GREENHILLS 7252813/7257450

Judge inhibits self from Camp John Hay case

By Amy R. Remo

THE PROTRACTED court battle over the Camp John Hay development property, Boracay City has suffered further delay after a judge inhibited herself from the case following disclosure that her politician-husband had financial ties with Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevcor).

The CJHDevcor, the private developer owned by the Soliapetta family, has been in a legal tussle with the state, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the agency mandated to transform former military bases into productive economic enterprises, over CJHDevcor's leased Camp John Hay properties.

In a statement it issued yesterday, the BCDA said Judge Mona Lisa Tabora had inhibited herself from the case during a hearing on April 16 because of her husband's alleged "close financial ties with the Soliapettas, a fact that she did not immediately reveal at the start of the case."

"The judge's belated disclosure came as a surprise and effectively delayed the resolution of the case. It is therefore that CJHDevcor will capitalize on the situation to further delay our efforts in finally collecting back rightful debt to government," the BCDA said.

The BCDA has claimed that CJHDevcor owed the government P3.029 billion in rent arrears.

Indefinite TRO

Tabora had earlier granted CJHDevcor extended and indefinite temporary restraining orders (TROs) that effectively prevented the BCDA from taking over CJHDevcor's leased properties within the Metro Hay Special Economic Zone (MHSEZ).

According to the BCDA, Tabora revealed during the hearing that her husband, former Baguio City Councilor Antonio Tabora, had been receiving campaign contributions from CJHDevcor and Antonio Tabora had been related to diverse things "Jay" Soliapetta is.

CJHDevcor, however, has repeatedly denied the judge's claim of campaign contributions.

The BCDA also cited records that the judge's husband was a stockholding buddy of Jay Soliapetta, and played golf during CJHDevcor promotions.

Delinquent

The BCDA said the CJHDevcor had been delinquent in its payment of rentals and arrears, for the lease of 247 hectares within the MHSEZ under a 25-year lease agreement between the BCDA and CJHDevcor, signed in 1996.

In late 2008, CJHDevcor refused outright to make any payments, it said.

According to the BCDA, CJHDevcor then requested and was eventually allowed to begin 1999 to defer payments for some three years, or 1997 and 1998. This was then followed by three restructuring agreements, which were signed by July 14, 2000, July 30, 2001, and finally, July 1, 2008. It was this last restructuring agreement that CJHDevcor had then wanted to rescind in allegedly evade the payment of P3 billion in rental arrears.

Disclosure at last

CJHDevcor unilaterally terminated the contract with BCDA in January 2012 to evade payment of its P3.02 billion debt, the BCDA said.

After realizing that it no longer had a working agreement with the government, CJHDevcor then filed for a TRO to prevent a possible government takeover of its facilities, BCDA said.

A three-day TRO was granted on Jan. 26, which was extended for another 17 days. During the second hearing on Feb. 7, Tabora ordered the parties to submit their respective memorandums by March 7 after which she said she would decide the case.

During a third hearing on April 16, Tabora inhibited herself from the case after disclosing her husband's ties with CJHDevcor and the Soliapettas. The case will be refiled off to another judge.

De Lima reports on high-profile fugitives: Palparan, Reyeses, Ecleo

From page A1

DE LIMA Fingers in report.

PALPARAN Whereabouts unknown.

ECLEO Manhunt begins.

REYES Authorities still tracking tips on brothers.

orbs is accused of responsibility as commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, for the disappearance of two University of the Philippines students in 2006.

"I regret to report to you that today we no longer have information about his possible whereabouts," De Lima said.

"In other words, to be honest, we don't know exactly where he is now," De Lima said.

But the hunt for Palparan continues, she said.

"[Interior] Secretary Jesse Robredo and I are still continuously coordinating with respect to that," De Lima said.

In December last year, 56 junior and three soldiers were charged with kidnapping by a Bulacan court for the 2006 disappearance of 10 students from Hagonoy and Sto. Tomas.

Palparan said he would face the charges then cited in five the warrants.

He tried to leave for Singapore on Dec. 16, but immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, blocked his departure.

Palparan has since gone into hiding.

His two rumored, Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio, are detained at Fort Bonifacio.

The fourth accused, M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario, has yet to be arrested.

De Lima said the authorities were still receiving information on the whereabouts of the Reyes brothers.

The Reyeses are suspected of masterminding the assassination of Ortega, who criticized them on his radio programs.

P600K bounty

Friends and supporters of Ortega have put up P600,000 for information that would lead to the arrest of the Reyeses.

De Lima said the Department of the Interior and Local Government had doubled the bounty by putting up another P600,000 for the arrest of the brothers.

"It's now a total of P600,000 so if I hope that will help," De Lima said.

She announced the start of the manhunt for Ecleo, who on Friday was found by the Cebu Regional Trial Court guilty of the murder of his wife, Alona Ecleo, in 2003.

The court sentenced Ecleo, spiritual leader of the cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, to 30 years imprisonment.

De Lima said there was an outstanding warrant for Ecleo's arrest. "Ecleo's conviction has just been affirmed so it's now time to [enhance the] warrant of arrest," she said.

The police and the National Bureau of Investigation are looking for the high-profile fugitives, De Lima said.

"We really have our hands full," De Lima said.

De Lima addressed frustrations at the lack of progress in the search for Palparan and the Reyes brothers.

No jurisdiction

As long as Palparan and the Reyeses remain at large, the courts have no jurisdiction over them and the cases against them cannot move, De Lima said.

Asked about the possibility that the fugitives had already fled the Philippines, De Lima said: "I've learned that wanted men were still here, so there were no indications that they had left the country.

"We have no reason to believe, or no basis to say at this point, that they have gotten out of the country."

"Besides, they cannot just go out of the country because they have outstanding arrest warrants," she said.

'BILIB IT,' not Bilibid, for Taguig detainees

From page A1

of Information College, one of the country's leading information-technology schools, and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Under the project, Cayetano and the mayor will build a training center inside the MMDJ that would have 10 computers for training detainees.

3 hours a day

Batches of inmates, selected on a recommendation of jail officials and with security considerations, will undergo training in basic computer literacy and computer hardware servicing at least three hours a day, information CEO Leo Bilingan said after he addressed a business build yesterday at the Institute of College at Eastwood City commercial center in Quezon City.

"Our jails have never been a venue for rehabilitation. We are here. It's a reality. We have to live with it," he said, but for the poor, it becomes punishment for the families of detainees."

Cayetano said: "So we want to do some good."

A second chance

Cayetano, a former representative of Taguig City in Congress, has been visiting the MMDJ regularly since the early 1990s and has been advocating for reforms in jails.

He said he would like to visit the regional police headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, because detainees still on trial for various crimes.

"Why not give training to Filipinos who need a second chance? Those people are expensive. In Cebu, [detainees] actually dance, in Mandaluyong City they do artwork and handicrafts. In Quezon City, they are trained to play basketball," Bilingan said.

"So why don't we help to make crimes costly by training them in IT?," he said.

Bilingan noted that companies in need of trained workers could help detainees once they return home and start their lives anew.

The organization said they would carry out the project in strict coordination with jail officials to ensure that it would not compromise security.

"We are working out [a] program that won't hurt them in [any] sense," Cayetano said. "Of course, we would never like to do this project outside the jail or stop being in jail might become an incentive," he added in jest.

No access to Internet

Cayetano said the training center would be fitted with security cameras and would be supervised by jail security officials.

An additional security measure, the computers will have no access to the Internet, Bilingan said.

"We are hoping that inmates will practice self-regulation," Cayetano said. "I'm hoping that no one will do something wrong or I should call my cell [so we can send them with the program] and they will be picked [or] we have they leave jail."

Graduate after 2 mos.

The program will start sometime in September, the first batch will graduate after two months, Bilingan said.

Information given by training to Bilingan officials as part of its information technology advocacy. It also runs a scholarship program. Most of 600 scholars, including some who received support from Cayetano, graduated in ceremonies held on the Information Eastwood campus yesterday.

Battle of Manila: 'Asiong Salonga' vs 'Dirty Harry'

From page A1

his decision known within the month, or a year before the 2013 local elections.

In case he runs, Estrada said he would prefer to become an "underdog" just like in the movies. The 2013 mayoral race would pit him against Mayor Alfredo Lim, a tough-talking former police officer dubbed Manila's "Dirty Harry."

"I'm never used to uphill [battles]," he said. "I prefer to be an underdog. It's more challenging."

Lim shrugged off rumors about Estrada running against him and wished him "good luck." In a TV interview, Lim said: "It's too early to think about that. Let's keep working instead."

Gift-giving in Tondo

On the eve of his birthday, Estrada had lunch yesterday in Paris, Manila, to lunch with children, friends gave donations in Pandacan in Quezon City, then dinners sponsored, Monkey Mountain and Pasig, all in Tondo.

He is set to attend Mass and hold another gift-giving event in Sto. Niño church in Bankerohan.

Some Tondo residents showed "Mayor Mayor!" as they welcomed him back yesterday.

Aldermen Mayo Severin Garduque, who accompanied Estrada in Tondo yesterday, described the reception as overwhelming. "People stabbed him, and it wasn't orchestrated," he said.

Overwhelmed

"There is a public clamor for him to run," he said. Even Pro People Kami (what he's done in [San Juan-city] mayor, senator, vice president and president), and they believe he can help them," Garduque said.

Though admitting he was "overwhelmed" by the gesture, Estrada shrugged off the public clamor, saying: "Ayo na 'yan (It's always been like that.)"

"I never said I was running [for Manila mayor]. I have been popular ever since I was a movie star," Estrada explained.

Estrada then made a suggestion that the gift-giving was preparation for the midterm elections. "I don't do this for politics. I've done this since I was a mayor [in San Juan], from when I was incarcerated, I asked my wife to do this for me."

Vow

Estrada likened the gift-giving to a parents' vow, as thanksgiving for the less fortunate.

The Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas Inner Circle, in particular, has sponsored significant vows because he had to rebuild when it burned down when he was President, he said.

"My birthday wish is to uplift the state of our people. Everyone are grieving in number. The population has increased to 94 million. See our income has not. The government and the religious sector need to understand the plight of citizens, and have a population management program," Estrada said to Filipinos.

Binay in Palace

In the phone interview, he said he also "likes the idea" of Vice President Jejomar Binay occupying Malacañang in 2016 and himself serving as mayor of Manila, where the palace is located, at the same time.

"It would be good. I could easily bring to his attention all the problems of Manila, particularly housing," he said.

Binay was Estrada's running mate during his unsuccessful second run for the presidency in 2010. Just recently, their respective political parties joined forces to form the United Nationalist Alliance coalition.

Estrada lamented that Manila had "lost its luster" in particular, the perennial experiences

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Anthony triple-double lifts Knicks

NEW YORK—Carmelo Anthony had 35 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double as the New York Knicks made 19 3-pointers to pummel their Atlantic Division rival Jaspers with a 139-110 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday.

J.R. Smith and Steve Novak both scored 25 points for the Knicks, who overcame a season-high 43 points from Paul Pierce and moved to a tie with Philadelphia for fourth place in the Eastern Conference while trimming Boston's division lead to 3 1/2 games. The Celtics would have wrapped up their fifth straight Atlantic title with a victory.

Instead, the Knicks snapped them with a second-string 14-3 postseason in a 71-point first half and expanded their season high by finishing 19 of 32 behind the arc. They improved to 14-5 under interim coach Mike Woodson.

In Los Angeles, Tony Parker had 28 points and 13 assists, and Tim Duncan had 19 points and eight rebounds as San Antonio handed the Lakers their worst loss of the season, 112-93.

Manu Ginobili scored 23 points in the Spurs' supposed their spot atop the Western Conference with their fourth straight win. They also snapped Los Angeles' four-game winning streak while dominating a meeting of division leaders—albeit with Kobe Bryant sitting out his ninth straight game to rest his bruised ankle.

In Philadelphia, Danny Granger scored 24 points, and Roy Hibbert had 15 points and 15 rebounds to lead Indiana past Philadelphia, 102-97.

AP

Pacific Athletic (12) Philadelphia (2) Dorsey (4), Grunfeld (7, 8) Webb (13), Butler (14), Midnight (8), Mercado (6). San Antonio (11) Ada Alston (8) Duncan

NLEX seeks 5th straight victory as Gems parade new coach Acot

NLEX shoots for a fifth straight victory against a Cebuana Lhuillier team unveiling its new coach in the Phil. Cup Foundation Cup at the Tuason Sports Arena in Pasig.

The Road Warriors are solidly their hold of top spot with a victory in the 2 p.m. clash against the Gems, who will have former University of Santo Tomas assistant coach Jimmy Acot calling the shots.

"I am thankful to the management for their trust and for this opportunity to coach the team," said Acot, who replaced Luigi Trillo, promoted head coach by the Alaska team early this week. "With the cases intact, we will move forward and do the best that we can."

Both Pacific Pipes goes up against Cafe France at 12 noon with both teams looking to maintain their possession clusters.

The Steelers rode a 2-0 record and a win can move them closer to a quarterfinal berth. Languishing in eighth spot with a 1-3 record, the Bakers are hard-pressed to prevail to stay in the fight for a spot in the playoffs.

With the race for the two-outright semifinal berths heating up, Acot has a tough task of steering the Gems past the Road Warriors who will rotate Sun Sebastian members Ian Sangalang and Calvin Abueva, who are in the United States with the Kings. Cudal P. Pajon

STANDINGS	W	L
NLEX	4	0
Steelers	2	1
C. Lhuillier	2	1
Hog Grill	2	1
Wilh. P. Pipes	2	1
C. Thailand	1	2
Jr Powerpuffs	1	2
Sangalang	1	2
Cafe France	0	3
Cagayan	0	3

LINKS TODAY
(Tuason Sports Annex)
8:30 a.m.—MVP Pro Cup
Pepsi vs Cafe France
2 p.m.—Cebuana
Lhuillier vs NLEX

Ateneo nips Perpetual for 2nd win

By Cudal P. Pajon

ATENEO, still the four-championship form, scrambled to a 62-60 victory over Perpetual Help for its second straight win yesterday in the 89th Flying V Hanes Premier Preseason Cup in San Juan.

Greg Slaughter nailed two free throws with three seconds remaining for the marginal points as the reigning UAAP champions followed up their 80-51 assault of Letran on opening day.

Undaunted by the Eagles' reputation, the Blue Knight back Pann a 18-point deficit in the first period and tied the game with 13 seconds remaining on a triple by Jett Nichol, who was 1-for-10 from beyond the arc before making the shot.

Slaughter gained a piece of the lead with Arizona alum sweepovering University of Santo Tomas, 70-54, for victory No. 2.

In other games, Adamson repulsed Lyceum, 80-64, for its first victory over arch-rival U bounced back with a 63-53 drubbing of Emilio Aguinaldo College.

Ateneo (62)
ALMEDA 10 — Cabe 11, Slaughter 10, Sumalinog 11, Borboro 8, Belleli, Gonzaga 0, Oliva 2, Estrel 5, Pedigacio 3, Rivera 0, Tolentino 0, Ferrer 0

PERPETUAL HELP (60) — Banyon 12, Nabi 8, Abeto 6, Rupa 8, Thompson 8, Arizobal 7, Baluca 3, Nadua 2, Jabagat 0, Jumamoy 0
Quarters: 20-18, 28-28, 46-51, 62-60

SAFE BEDAY'S Ola Adeogun blocks UST's Ba'ris Abdul during their Flint Flying V Hanes Premier Preseason Cup game yesterday

Texters forge finals vs B-Meg

By Mycaeg S. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT's veterans can deliver as well.

Ranidel de Ocampo and Jimmy Alapag, short for most of last night, drilled the baskets that mattered when the outcome was in the balance as the Tropang Texters stopped Barako Bull, 101-98, to enter the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

De Ocampo and Alapag combined for 11 critical points in the stretch that held off the Energy as the oldies matched the best of five series even down the wire.

The Texters advanced against the B-Meg Llamados, who made the best-of-seven title series on Sunday after a 108-84 win over Barangay Ginebra and a 3-1 triumph.

"In the end, it's about making the shots that matter. Jimmy's style and Ranidel's free point play. That's how it is," coach Chot Reyes, who will make the 19th title series appearance of his career, said.

We had the Llamados about the other team. He knew they were going to be very good," Reyes said. "It's the finals (against B-Meg), it will be that way again."

The only two times in this series that the ex-mits weren't Monsters were games won by the Energy as their veterans carried the fight to the wire.

It was De Ocampo and Alapag's most last night for the Texters, whose flat two wins in the series were by an average of 23 points.

Alapag first drained a triple from close to 20 feet, and after the Energy had come to within four points bristling into the final three minutes, De Ocampo completed a three-point play that kept the Texters' heads above water, 96-88.

The reigning MVP Alapag then had an unrelenting lay-up and De Ocampo sewed it all up for the Texters with two free throws with 50 seconds remaining for a 100-90 lead.

Ronnell Harrow led the Texters with 29 points, 14 rebounds and three steals and De Ocampo chabbed with 18 that went with seven boards.

Reyes said Alapag shouldn't have even played. Alapag's father is battling cancer and his brother just suffered a stroke a day before the series started.

Talk 'N Text (101)
— Harrow 29, De Ocampo 18, Alapag 16, Castro 10, Williams 6, Pena 5, Ayaog 5, Ilusorio 3, Reyes 1, Ebarle 0

Barako Bull (98)
— Yeng 27, Jaspe 21, Sand 10, Abando 12, Miller 6, Salvador 4, Hapeda 2, Mendoza 2, Pascual 2, Mercado 1, Perez 0

Quarters: 24-21, 48-47, 71-70, 101-98

LIVE TODAY
(Smart Araneta Coliseum)
6:45 p.m.
B-Meg vs TNT

'Pinoy Knockout: Petalcorin battles Thai

RANDY Petalcorin's potential to be a world champion will be gauged when he dangles his Pan-Asian Boxing Association light flyweight belt against Thai Somrerluk Chuayong-gym at the Manilabayong City Gym on Saturday.

The 12-round showdown will headline the Pinoy Knockout card being staged by 8EOV in its continuing search for the next Filipino boxing talent.

Only 20, the 5-foot-3 Petalcorin, a southpaw, tows a record of 16 wins, 1 loss with 13 knockouts and is deemed a prime prospect to give the country another world crown in two years. He took the WBC Asia Boxing Council Continental title via a first round of Thai Sukbrieng chair Sithkomnugda last June.

Though Chuayong-gym is an inch shorter and only holds an 8-3 slate with three knockouts, he's no pushover having beaten by unanimous decision Jayson Tibi and Jonathan Bacquian to claim Mohammad Rachman on Jan. 26, 2011.

According to American trainer Roland Szabuhi, who guided Manny Pacquiao to his first world title in 1998, Petalcorin is "a rare combination of speed and power" and "definitely will win the fight."

The Petalcorin-Chuayong-gym bout will be aired via satellite starting at 9 p.m. on ABS-CBN the official live TB broadcaster of the 2012 London Olympics, on BIC 13.

Also scheduled are four Philippine Boxing Federation title fights, according to promoter Gerry Garcia.

Jhezel Raymond and Ariel Delgado will figure in a grudge rematch for the super bantamweight championship while Jesse Bermudez and Genesis Dotoria dispute the featherweight title. Jun Obina clashes with Richard Pumicpic for the bantamweight crown while Edison Resweda and Jaymart Tayco tangle for the flyweight title.

Present during the launch of the boxing series are ABTV's Vim Lucanin and Peachy Flores and Career and Association Board's Dr. Hanner Cruz and promoter Mon Lainez.

The fights are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Roy Luarca

PBA YOUNG STARS Ronnie Asuncion, Coca-Cola event to market director and Powerade's representative to the PBA Board, Nikki Lao (brand manager of Coca-Cola export corporation) and PBA Commissioner Chito Salud during the launching of the Coca-Cola PBA Young Stars on Tuesday.

Goodbye to London: Another view

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE HALL of losers Charly Suarez dealt a tragic blow on the country's (already) flimsy bid in this year's London Olympics.

It was so numbing that there was yet nothing clear on what really caused Suarez's fall.

A featherweight pumped up quick to fit into lightweight colors, Suarez was proving bigger than life in his early bouts in the Asian Olympic qualifiers.

The five-foot-7 top Filipino boxer however fell short to his Kazak rival clash with the five-foot-10 Ua Quinn of China, a seasoned national lightweight.

Of course, it was not only his lack in necessary inches that did Suarez in.

The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), for one, readily stepped that Suarez fell a victim of biased judging.

* * *

This reporter noted that, in the first place, the Abap should've not been deluded in believing the Olympic quest could be hatchecked.

The extraordinary thrust of the new Abap was only a little over two years in place, and they had to field readily available numerical bodies thru could produce an aspirant equipped with the high Olympic style and build.

Was there also something wrong in the managerial setup?

"They are certainly neither corrupt nor inefficient. They have genuine good intentions," said Manny Pinol, respected boxing manager and commentator.

Where did they fail?

"Their only problem is that they are basically marketing and promotions guys who are never connected with the fancy and the flair and good media coverage and press releases."

What?

"Their knowledge of amateur boxing is quite limited. I sensed this when I attended what was supposed to be an amateur boxing forum in Baguio City a few years back which was also intended to mark the format and official launch of Smart Communications and Pangilinan into amateur boxing."

* * *

Hoping that the forum would really look into what was needed to rehabilitate and revitalize the country's amateur boxing program, Pinol said he prepared and brought with him a complete blueprint of a national amateur boxing program.

Pinol was prepared to present the blueprint during the convention.

He backed out.

"What I saw in the ballroom of the Baguio City hotel where the event was held was not a consultative or learning forum, but a grand celebration, complete with beautiful ushertes and pageantry, a spectacle that I did not expect to please "The Boss," Manny Pangilinan," Pinol said.

* * *

"Marketing and promotions wise, it was exceptional," Pinol said. "But boxing is not like Manny found , where franchise are bought and sold. Boxing and marketing, was bought by another company for a cool billion pesos. In boxing, there is the fighting and the punching part, the essence of the whole thing, which will produce and sow the quality of the products being promoted and marketed."

He reminisced: "In the thick of the celebration, nobody even dared to ask: Are there other boxers being molded and readied for future Olympics?

Well, the answer to the last question is a big "Yes!" Aside from the Pumbo Boxing Team of former congressman Tomy Boy Herrodia, which produced Suarez and the others, there is hardly any other professional boxing team actively involved in amateur boxing. There is no organized provincial, regional or even national boxing tournaments aimed at discovering new talents. In fact, the absence of these amateur boxing competitions have resulted in the entry of non-standing amateur boxing talents into the pro league, including a 5' 10" 147 19-year-old lightweight who just turned pro this year and has already scored two first round knockouts in his first two professional bouts."

Pinol advised that, had there been provincial, regional and national competitions initiated by Abap and staged every year, the range of boxing talents to choose from would be wide.

* * *

Still to that a national amateur boxing academy to be established in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao where these young prospective fighters could continue their studies while training and preparing for the Olympics. This is the blueprint that I, Pinol, Trinidad, Quirito Atienza, Hermie Rivera, Dennis Principe, Nick Granges, Abac Cardeno and the other sports journalists who love boxing, have long proposed – a national national amateur boxing program that not only be meant on the marketing of the finished products but also to making sure that the products being marketed are not "impure."

With the embarrassing ouse of Philippine amateur boxing, Pinol said he's willing to retrieve from his old computer files the "National Amateur Boxing Development Blueprint" which he prepared and would have shared to Baseball Guy many years ago.

"Promise. I will not charge Abap a franchise or talent fee," he concluded.

Yee regains lead, Superal pulls away

CAMARIÑAS, Cavite—Miggy Yee regained a two-shot edge to boys' Class A while Princess Superal pulled away with a six-stroke lead in the girls' side of the Class A division going to the final round of the Junior World-sanctioned qualifying tournament at the Manila South-woods Golf and Country Club.

Yee, the best child's bet who trailed by two after the second round, put in a one-over-par 73 to be at 217 at the Legends course as he set the pace in the chase for the three slots reserved for Class A for the Callaway Junior World Championship in late-July in Italy.

Qatar's Lloyd Jefferson Go struggled with a 77 to end back at 219 while previous state Chi-ldrockers cracked a 71 for 221. A further shot back was Antonio Mate with a 222 after a 74. Jairus Reyes (79-226) and Santiago Lorenzo (75-227) were still in contention of bagging a-in the top three.

Superal of ICTSI birthed three times in the front nine but tapered off with five bogeys on the back side to coast to a two-over-par 77 but it was enough to pull her lead to six after the penultimate round. She has a 228 tally in the 72-hole qualifier sponsored by ICTSI and organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines (JGFP).

Meryl Mercadejas, a student of St. Paul Pasig, clinched in with a 77 for 226 while fellow Pasiflora Daniella Uy matched that 77 for 227, as did Antonio Ledesma Dimaya, who carded an a 78. Felicia Medalla rose to fifth spot with a 234 after a 72.

BASUBO BUSUJUP Manny Pacquiao begins preparations for his May 5 fight against American Timothy Bradley with high-altitude training in the country's summer capital yesterday

Rates sizzles with 61, leads Aunzo by 2 shots

By Musong S. Cunilla

JOHANNESBURG—Retief Goosen fired a seven-under-par 65 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead over Pardis-wayan after the first 18 holes of the ICTSI Camp John Hay Championship in Baguio.

The pocket-sized Boer, a veteran contending for his first pro triumph, finished his last three holes to overtake Aunzo, the most dangerous man in the 75-strong field with seven of the big guns campaigning abroad.

Starting in the back nine, Goosen, whose brief stints in Asian tour including the first round lead of the 6th The Country Club International two years ago, also eagled No. 10 for a 32-28 card.

Aunzo, who teed off early was in the clubhouse with a 63 marred by a double-bogey 5 on the ninth hole before he strung up six birdies the rest of the way and he is the least to come a two-year window spell.

Rates, who is currently looking to come for a final round collapse in the first leg of the circuit organized by Filipinas Golf Tournaments as Splendido last month.

"Nothing spectacular to my game plan—hit the fairways and the greens and make the most of the birdie chances," said Rates. "I just hope to have a good time tomorrow (today). A lot of things will still happen in the last two days."

Carl Jason Gonzaga, a highly touted sophomore, also put himself in the mix with a 64, tied with four others including rookie pro and former national amateur champion Clyde Mondilla and Siberia Bermudez.

Mondilla, who finished in a 23rd place tie in

ALMOST: Aboy but with a 63

his debut in Tagaytay, had a solid 32 at the front, highlighted by an eagle 3 on No. 6.

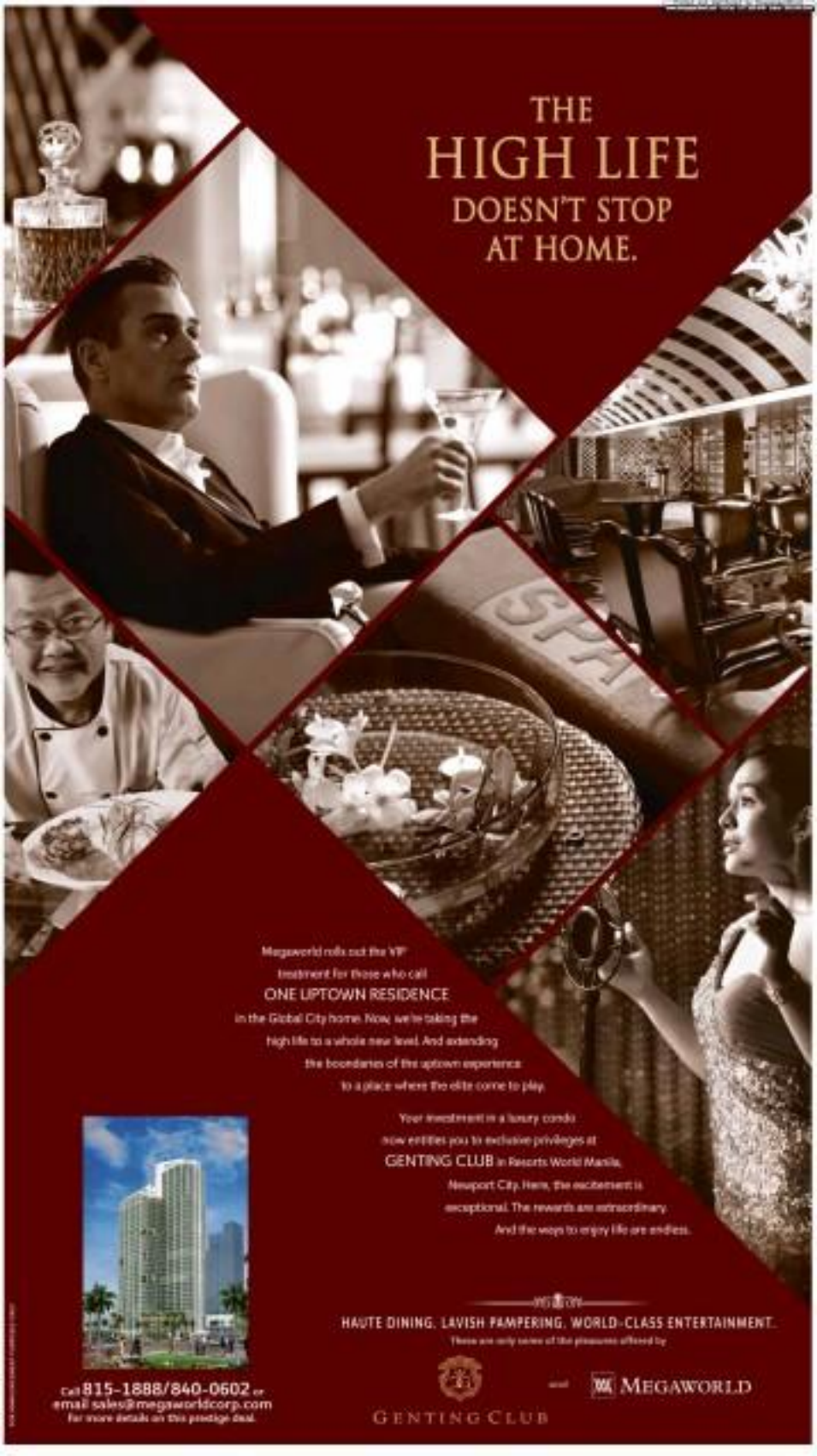
He was in three-under after 12 holes but double-bogeyed the 13th and dropped another at the 16th to be three shots behind.

The tournament is being backed by Maxicu, Callaway, Titleist, Sharp, Cuscon Golfwalkers, Silkworm, ShapeGolfwear, Inquirer Gold, A round of Golf, Studio 23, Rolls, and Dynamic Sports.

The leading first round scores:

(T—1) Rates 30-35, (T—3) Aunzo 34-30, (T—3) Gonzaga 30-34, 3) Mondilla 34-30, 4) Bermudez 33-31, (T—5) Manalo 34-30, 6) Hernando 36-31, 7) Reyes 32-30, 8) Soliman 30-31, 9) Gonzales 32-31.

(T—9) Alcantara 29-36, (T—10) Cruz 32-33, (T—11) Gonzales 32-34, (T—12) Ramos 33-33, (T—13) Ramos 33-34, (T—14) Ramos 34-33, (T—15) Ramos 34-34, (T—16) Ramos 35-34, (T—17) Ramos 35-35, (T—18) Ramos 36-35, (T—19) Ramos 36-36, (T—20) Ramos 37-36, (T—21) Ramos 37-37, (T—22) Ramos 38-37, (T—23) Ramos 38-38, (T—24) Ramos 39-38, (T—25) Ramos 39-39,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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

AMONG the country's regions, the National Capital Region posted the highest number of fires in the country in 2010 and 2011. In 2010, NCR recorded 4,358 fires and 3,668 last year.
Zoraida Sazaldon, Inquirer Research

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ENLIGHTENED PATH
Two Carmelite monks find serenity — and soothing relief from the searing urban heat — under the canopy of trees at La Mesa Eco Park in Quezon City.

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Customs weeds out 'fake' press

Bureau monitors 'real' newsmen thru new IDs

By Jeremy Reing

IT'S PROBABLY the most "covered" government agency, considering that almost 120 media persons want to keep watch on its operations, one way or another.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) yesterday began implementing a media accreditation policy purportedly designed to lessen out "fake journalists" who are known to brandish press badges to engage in illicit activities in the bureau.

Two groups—the Customs Media Association and the Customs Townsfolk Association—earlier questioned the policy before the Supreme Court, saying it curtailed press freedom, but the high tribunal did not issue a temporary restraining order.

BIAZON: Astounding number of reporters covering the BOC

The BOC issued the first batch of 55 IDs to what it considered "legitimate" media representatives—including reporters, photographers and cameramen—from 48 print and broadcast media companies.

The agency's Public Information and Assistance Division (PIAD) said the ID cards were "radio-frequency enhanced" and could be used to monitor the "activities" of their bearers.

According to PIAD chief Electra Abalos, at least 117 media members applied for accreditation under the new policy, but only 55 were given the new IDs while the rest, mostly representing weekly tabloids foreign on the BOC, were rejected.

The media accreditation policy was introduced by Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon five months ago through Customs Memorandum Order 07-2011.

Biazon earlier said the order would enable the agency to weed out "fake" media persons and monitor legitimate ones who may be engaging in illicit money-making activities, such as acting as fixers or go-betweens for smugglers, or acquiring payoffs from unscrupulous customs officials.

"For so long a time, the BOC was practically an open field for any reporter—real or not. This media environment has brought about an astounding number of reporters covering the BOC," he said.

Biazon stressed that the order was not issued to curtail press freedom but to set the "ground rules" for media needs in the bureau while "protecting the interest of customs personnel and legitimate reporters" covering the BOC.

"There's nothing wrong with knowing the people entering one's place, if only for security reasons," he added.

Biazon said he earlier consulted the presidents of the two media associations covering BOC and some nonaffiliated reporters to get inputs for the new policy.

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DOJ affirms homicide rap filed vs Daza kin

By Jerome Aning

CONCLUDING its reinvestigation into the killing of Neal Omar Sy—the former boyfriend of former Quezon City Rep. Nonoryon Camelo Daza—the Department of Justice yesterday affirmed the homicide case filed last month by the Quezon City police against Bulacan provincial board member Romeo Allan Bobos.

"[E]vidence existed as the records it sufficient to engender a well-founded belief that only homicide was committed. It is respectfully recommended that the information for homicide against respondent Bobos be affirmed in toto/complaint," Assistant State Prosecutor Clint Paolo Santiago said in a resolution which was approved by Prosecutor General Claro Arellano.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 78 earlier ordered a reexamination of Omar's death based on a motion filed by his family.

Omar was killed by Bobos after the latter went to Daza's house in Quezon City on Feb. 10 in a supposed attempt to win her back.

Bobos, the former congresswoman's ex-in-law, said he shot the victim in self-defense after the latter took him, his wife and Daza hostage and threatened to kill all of them. He was subsequently charged by the police with homicide.

Shot 5 times

Omar's family, however, insisted that the charge should be murder since their father was shot five times, indicating that his death was premeditated.

At that time, Daza and Omar, whose marriages to different partners had been annulled, had just ended a 12-year relationship.

On March 1, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to conduct a new probe of Omar's death. On March 30, the NBI came out with a recommendation for the filing of a murder charge against Bobos.

Court records said a report submitted by the NBI on the case were later transmitted to Santiago who was tasked to conduct a reinvestigation of Omar's death.

According to Santiago, he limited his inquiry to outright issue. Whether there was sufficient ground to engender a well-founded belief that elements/acts constitutive of the killing as a murder.

The prosecutor said that after considering a "meticulous review" of the case, he was "morally convinced" that only homicide was committed.

Santiago said not all qualifying circumstances specified under the Revised Penal Code were present for the killing to be considered a murder. He pointed out that no evidence was presented to show how the killing commenced, developed and ended as the testimony of the police and Omar family's police only narrated the events after the victim's death.

"There is nothing in the report that would establish that the perpetrator consciously adopted a mode of attack to facilitate the perpetration of the killing without risk to himself which is the essence of treachery, whereas there is a witness testifying that the victim was armed at the time of the incident and surveying circumstances that support self-defense," he said.

The fact the Omar was shot five times also did not necessarily mean he was murdered, Santiago added, saying that "jurisprudence states that 'which the assault is continuous, the fact that the final blows were inflicted in a manner consistent with treachery does not qualify the killing to murder unless proven that treachery was also present at the inception of the attack."

The prosecutor said there was also no evidence to show that Bobos deliberately used or took advantage of his superior strength to carry out the killing.

Mall robbers' gambling gave them away, says prober

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TO AVOID arousing suspicion over the huge amounts of money they were flashing to people during their frequent gambling sessions, one of the two suspects in the infamous Galleria mall robbery had spread the story that he recently won the jackpot in a lotto draw.

Apolito sources told the Inquirer that this was the explanation given by Willy Enriquez, who was arrested by the police along with Jerwin de la Cruz on Monday, to the relatives of his live-in partner, Geralyn Canenguez, in Iloilo province.

Enriquez and De la Cruz had fled to Iloilo with Canenguez after the March 20 mall robbery which left a security guard dead and six other people injured.

The cover story, however, failed to convince some people who expected the two men's whereabouts to satisfaction, the source said.

Enriquez and De la Cruz were arrested as they were about to leave for Bacolod City. They were on their way to South Cotabato and her daughter when a joint team from the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) and Iloilo police caught up with them.

They were later positively identified by witnesses as among the six men who robbed a bank teller who was about to deliver money to a foreign exchange shop inside Robinsons Galleria.

According to the source, the pair had decided to leave the province because they sensed that the police were too close to them.

Chief Supt. Florio de la Vega, QCPD director, said that Enriquez and De la Cruz would initially be charged with possession of illegal firearms before the Department of Justice.

Charges of robbery with homicide are also being prepared against the pair for their alleged involvement in the mall robbery.

De la Vega said that the two men yielded a cal. .45 pistol and a cal. .38 revolver during their arrest. Both guns are undergoing ballistic tests to determine if they were also used in other robberies.

Records showed that Enriquez has a pending case for robbery in Isabel for his alleged involvement in a heist at Metropolitan mall in Pasay City two years ago. Witnesses had tagged him as one of the five men who held up the mall employees of a money-changer's shop who were about to deliver P7 million to another shop inside the establishment.

"The modus operandi and the car we got were the same but we still will have to subject their weapons to ballistic tests and cross-matching," De la Vega said.

METROBRIEFS

Cops sue jeepney driver in reporter's death

THE PCSO yesterday formally charged the driver of a passenger jeepney who fled after his vehicle hit a motorcycle, killing a broadcaster, with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide at the Taytay Provincial Capitol. Noel yesterday afternoon, he had yet to surrender. "The police are now searching for [him]. He was nowhere to be seen in his house in Taytay, Rizal," said investigator PO3 Cecilito Ojia Jr. said. The accident happened just three weeks after another reporter, Edwin Perez of People's Balita, was murdered inside a cemetery attached to Antipolo City, Rizal. Three suspects in the newsman's killing were arrested two days later. Alec Calleja

Better late than never for man charged with murder

A BAN who was sentenced earlier this week to serve up to 12 years in prison on a murder charge can once again apply for parole since he has already served the minimum jail term, Carlos Asuncion, who was convicted on Monday for killing Leonardo Padrido in March 2002, has been detained for more than nine years at the Pasay City Jail while waiting for the promulgation of his case. Judge Caridad Diaz of the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 112 meanwhile ordered the municipal government to desist from murder to homicide and ordered him to serve from six to 12 years in prison. He must also directed to pay P100,000 in damages to the kin of his victim. Alec Calleja

Habitat goes to Navotas

HABITAT for Humanity goes to Navotas City for a "Fresh Build" to be held on May 12 supporting more than a thousand youth participants, the project is in line with Habitat's 2012 Vision Campaign that carries the theme: "I Build My City, I Build My Philippines." For inquiries, visit www.habitat.org.ph or call (632) 840-2000 and send an e-mail to volunteer@habitat.org.ph.

BAREFOOT BECKHAMS Pass with a wave, not football, these boys try to polish their skills on a dusty open field on Quirino Avenue, Manila. ROMEO RAZON

2 get life for kidnap; ransom paid via ATM

By Nancy Carvajal

THEY first demanded a whopping P75 million, before settling for P1.2 million—partially paid through ATM.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court yesterday sentenced two men to life imprisonment for kidnapping a businessman four years ago.

Judge Henri Jean Paul Inting of the QC Regional Trial Court - Branch 95 pronounced Rajan Dumla and Christopher Siaman guilty of kidnapping Ka Tuan Chua, then a hardware store owner residing in Barangay Tandang Sora.

A third suspect, Christopher Olegario, remained at large.

Chua was also a former official of the United Architects of the Philippines.

Court records showed that Dumla and Siaman abducted Chua on Sept. 10, 2008, forcing the victim out of his car which was then parked in front of his house and driving him into the kidnappers' vehicle.

Seventeen days later, the victim was rescued from a house in Barangay Cubol, Novaliches, by the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response group (Pacer), the chief anti-kidnapping unit of the Philippine National Police.

Siaman was captured in the rescue operation while Dumla was arrested later also in Novaliches.

In his court testimony, Chua recalled that shortly after he was taken captive, the kidnappers called his sister in demand a P75-million ransom but later agreed to have the amount reduced to P1.5 million.

In the course of the negotiation, the victim said, the abductors already agreed to accept small amounts to be deposited to Chua's ATM (automated teller machine) account.

Before Chua was rescued, some P500,000 had already been sent to the kidnappers through the ATM, while the P1.2 million balance was found unclaimed.

"The testimony of the businessman-victim is credible and trustworthy. He testified in a calm, candid and straightforward manner," Judge Inting noted in his decision.

The accused, on the other hand, "failed to present concrete evidence proving that they were in some other place other than the crime scene," the judge added.

The court also ordered the two convicts to pay the victim and his family a total of P3.6,000 in damages.

Erap's forgiving nature

ON TARGET
Raymund Buddy

AVIGDOR, a shooting star with China is not a commodity we lose a promised one.

There is no way we can defeat China, a military superpower. If we fight China, we're like an ant being trampled on by an elephant.

We are lucky President Noy is not a hothead.

* * *

Former President Erap celebrates his 75th birthday today and politicians of all stripes are expected to attend.

Even those who have hurt him, among them Doctor Pat Poti, Lito "Chavit" Singson, have been invited to the celebration, a source in Erap's circle said.

Erap has a forgiving nature and doesn't hold a grudge.

During my birthday party last year, Erap and Chavit met. The two talked like nothing happened between them.

Erap also shook hands with another former enemy, retired police general Roy Kerwin, at the party.

* * *

I'll bet Erap will live up to a hundred years. A psychologist friend once told me those who hold no grudge against others live longer.

The secret to a long life, according to the psychologist, is to forgive people who have hurt you.

* * *

During the birthday of businessman Sebastian Chua five years ago, Erap asked me: "Men, have you forgiven your enemies?"

I thought he was trying to be funny, and my reply was: "How can?"

I realized later he wasn't joking when, at my birthday party, he had an animated conversation with Chavit, who was responsible for his early departure from Malacañang.

* * *

Erap doesn't want to admit it yet, but he's running for mayor of Manila in the coming elections.

According to his close friend, entertainer Rod Ongpauco, Erap confided to him he plans to run for Manila mayor.

If Erap wins against reelectionist Mayor Fred Lim, it is likely that the latter will not make it. Erap was second to President Noy in the 2010 presidential race.

Noynoy Aquino's victory was because of the public's sympathy over the death of his mother, former President Cory.

Without the Cory factor, Erap would have won, and that would have made history as elected president twice.

* * *

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC)—no longer called Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC)—marked its 66th anniversary recently.

The PRC has been the nation's **immovable partner in times of** calamity for 66 years, especially with former Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon as chair.

Gordon and his Red Cross volunteers are almost always first at the scenes of disaster.

While he was campaigning for senator in a Nueva Ecija town several years ago, Gordon chanced upon a roaring public assembly.

He got down from his car to manage the firefighters and left only after the fire was contained.

* * *

The 9th Ramon Valdés Cup Classic golf tournament will be held April 26-29 at Antipolo City, hosted by Manila Mills and Pearl Sports Club Inc. headed by Gerry Lazaro.

Proceeds from the shooting competition will go to the Ramon Valdés Good Samaritan Foundation.

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N. Korea threatens retaliation

SEOUL, A taunting North Korea said on Wednesday it was ready to retaliate in the face of international condemnation over its failed rocket launch, increasing the likelihood the hermit state will push ahead with a third nuclear test.

The North also ditched an agreement to allow back inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency. That followed a US decision, in response to a rocket launch the United States says was a disguised long-range missile test, to break off a deal earlier this year to provide the impoverished state with food aid.

Pyongyang called the US move a hostile act and said it was no longer bound to stick to its side of the Feb. 29 agreement, dashing any hopes that new leader Kim Jong-un would soften a foreign policy that has for years been based on the threat of an economic reward to leverage concessions out of regional powers.

"We have thus become able to take necessary retaliatory measures, free from the agreement," the official KCNA news agency said, without specifying what actions it might take.

Many analysts expect that with its third test, North Korea will for the first time try a nuclear device using highly enriched uranium, something it was long suspected of developing but which it only publicly admitted to almost two years ago.

"If it conducts a third nuclear test, it will be senseless rather than provocative because North Korea would want to use the test as a big global advertisement for its newer, bigger nuclear capabilities," said Baek Seung-joo of the Seoul-based Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. Reuters

US agents took 21 women to hotel

WASHINGTON—US Secret Service agents and military personnel took as many as 21 women back to their hotel in Colombia in an incident last week involving alleged misconduct with prostitutes, a bipartisan source said on Tuesday.

"There are 11 agents involved. Twenty or 21 women foreign nationals were brought to the hotel, but allegedly nineteen were involved with the men," Senator Susan Collins of Maine—who was briefed by the director of the Secret Service, Mark Sullivan—said in a statement to Reuters.

"Director Sullivan is rightly appalled by the agents' actions and is pursuing a rigorous internal investigation," said Collins, the senior Republican on the Senate Homeland Security Committee. "We ordered all the agents to return to Washington immediately and all have been interviewed."

More details about the incident that marred President Barack Obama's weekend trip to the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, emerged on Tuesday.

A Marine Corps spokesperson said two Marine dog handlers assigned to support the Secret Service are being investigated as the military seeks to determine if they were involved in soliciting prostitutes.

The spokesperson, Captain Haven Schuler, said the Marines have no direct contact with Obama.

The Secret Service has removed the top security managers of its 11 agents and placed them on administrative leave due to the incident.

The agents brought the prostitutes to their beachfront hotel in Cartagena, before Obama arrived for the summit, according to a local police source. A US official told Reuters that more than 10 military service members also may have been involved.

"The president has confidence in Director Sullivan," Obama's spokesperson Jay Carney said. "The director acted swiftly in response to this incident and is overseeing an investigation."

Another lawmaker who has spoken with Sullivan, Representative Peter King, said that fewer, figures in Colombia for the Secret Service were interviewing the women involved, who had left identification at the hotel desk, King told Reuters.

"So far there is no information that any of them were involved with any narcoterrorist group or any organized crime."

Nor is there any indication that the women were looking for "the score," he said, addressing a concern that the agents might have been set up by someone with intent to compromise them.

King said he understood that each of the 11 agents took a woman to his room.

"A number [of the agents] are saying they did not consider them prostitutes," he said.

Addressing another security concern, King said he had been told three were on schedule of Obama's trip to Colombia in the agent's rooms.

King, a Republican who chairs the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, said he had not decided whether to hold hearings on the incident, noting that he had not seen such behavior before from Secret Service agents.

Collins said she asked Sullivan over several days including who the women were. "Could they have been members of groups hostile to the United States? Could they have planted bugs, disabled weapons, or ... jeopardized security of the president in any manner?"

She also noted whether there was evidence of previous misconduct, said "given the number of agents involved, does this indicate a problem with the culture of the Secret Service?"

Sullivan promised to keep her updated and Collins said she was confident he would fully investigate and "pursue appropriate action against the agents should the allegations prove true." Reuters

'Sex as easy as buying a beer in Colombia'

CARTAGENA, Colombia—Days after US Secret Service agents were sent home over allegations of hard-partying and bringing prostitutes to their hotel, the mayor of this Caribbean city was wondering what all the fuss was all about.

After all, prostitution is legal in Colombia, and it's a big draw of this steamy Caribbean port where sex is as easy to buy as a bottle of beer.

"It doesn't bother people at all," Mayor Campo Elías said on Tuesday, echoing many of his countrymen. "First, because adults were involved and, second, because here, it's normal."

To find a prostitute, pointed out the hotel where the Secret Service agents stayed ahead of President Barack Obama's arrival over that used only step out to the beach. There, scrappy men peddle everything from diving

PROSTITUTES (right) stand outside a bar in a square in this city, ahead of visits over for the Americas Summit in Cartagena. AP/FILE

cocktails to sex services.

"I think prostitution is part of the city's culture. That is, a tourist comes to Cartagena and it's part of his plan to look for company," said Gerardo Javier Hag, a security industry executive.

Desk clerks at the Hotel Caribe, where the Americans stayed, told the AP that guests routinely take women to their rooms. All the hotel requires, they said, is anyone visiting a guest's room between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. is also registered and a surcharge is paid.

At almost all hours, prostitutes are available around Plaza Proposición, a fortigrave two blocks from the hotel at 1:30 a.m. on Monday, several looking from across the avenue.

Cartagena's sex trade comes in many forms, from desperate poor women charging less than $30 to glossy brunette cane for bus customers could quite well their own, to transvestites who charge $100 or more.

In Washington on Tuesday, Secret Service officials began briefing US Congress members over allegations that agents took prostitutes to their hotel before the Summit of Americas attended last weekend by Obama.

Hag said he understands the national security implications of having people naked with persons the US president sleeping with strangers in a country where leftist insurgents are fighting a three-decades war. AP/Reuters

Colombian authorities, meanwhile, won't discuss the scandal. Nor will the hotel's owner, Hotel Caribe. The hotel's spokesperson said the matter was strictly between the hotel and US officials.

US Sen. Susan Collins, the ranking Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, said Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan told her on Tuesday that 20 or 21 women were brought to the hotel where Marines were also staying.

Another US congressman briefed about the incident, Peter King of New York, said a prostitute had complained to State Department officials that some of the Americans didn't pay her and that hotel staff and police became involved. It was then discovered that "nearly all" of a group of 11 Secret Service agents had taken women to their rooms, he said. Later Thursday, the agents were handed censured from the country. AP

Chronically angry people at greater risk of heart attacks, says study

WASHINGTON—Be happy—it seems to be good for your heart.

Scientists have long known that Type A personalities and people who are chronically angry, anxious or depressed have a higher risk of heart attacks.

Now a Harvard University review of the flip side of that psychology concludes that being upbeat and optimistic just may help protect against heart disease.

Rather than focusing only on how to lessen heart risks, "it might also be useful to study how we might bolster the positive side of things," said lead researcher Julia Boehm of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Boehm reviewed dozens of studies examining a positive outlook—as determined by various psychological measurements—on heart health. It sometimes played a major role, as a number of studies found the most optimistic people had half the risk of a first heart attack when compared to the least optimistic, Boehm said.

Why? Previous work shows the stress associated with negative psychological traits can lead to damage of arteries and the heart itself.

Studies found that people with a better sense of well-being tend to have healthier blood pressure, cholesterol and weight, and are more likely to exercise, eat healthier, get enough sleep and avoid smoking. But the conclusion that a sunny disposition rewards us more against it's a positive outlook makes people feel more like taking heart-healthy steps...or whether living healthier helps you feel more positive.

The review, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was published on Tuesday by the Psychological Bulletin.

Other research is couched less than link between psychological and physical well-being makes sense, said Dr. Elizabeth Jackson of the University of Michigan and American College of Cardiology, who wasn't involved with the review. Among her own heart patients, she has noticed that those who feel they have more control over their lives and are involved in their care have better outcomes.

What if you're by nature a pessimist? "That's a hard question. There's no magic happy pill," Jackson said. AP

Some research has found that asking people to smile helps put them in a better mood, Boehm noted, although long-term effects aren't clear.

"Sometimes it's hard, particularly in tough economic times, but taking a conscious step to relax and enjoy a sunny day might be good heart health," Jackson said. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Britain arrests cleric Abu Qatada

LONDON—British authorities rearrested radical Islamist cleric Abu Qatada on Tuesday and began a fresh bid to deport him, saying they had received assurances about his treatment in Jordan. Home Secretary Theresa May told parliament she had received assurances from Amman that the 51-year-old would not be tortured if he was returned to face charges of involvement in terror attacks in the home country. Abu Qatada was found guilty in his absence in 1999, but Jordan has promised to quash the conviction and give him a new hearing before civilian judges, with independent defense lawyers and the right to question witnesses, she said. AFP

US eases Burma restrictions

WASHINGTON—The United States on Tuesday eased financial restrictions to allow US-based companies to invest in projects in Myanmar, putting into place an incentive to encourage democratic reforms. The Treasury Department said that it would no longer bar financial transactions in the country formerly known as Burma if the money is going to one of a specific list of "listed basic human needs" or promote democracy. Such projects include assistance to internally displaced people, English-language schools as well as delivery of clothes, food and medicine. The move also lets US missionaries spend money in the heavily Buddhist nation. AFP

Egypt bars 10 presidential bids

CAIRO—Egypt's electoral commission confirmed on Tuesday that 10 candidates have been barred from running for president, ruling out a challenge by key Islamists and Hosni Mubarak's ex-spy chief. "The commission rejected all appeals presented by the 10" candidates among 23 who applied to stand in the election scheduled for next month, said the official MENA news agency. The commission had held a day-long meeting to hear appeals from disqualified candidates, including former spy chief Omar Suleiman, the Muslim Brotherhood's Khairat El Shater and popular Salafist politician Hazem Abu Ismail. The electoral commission said it had rejected the candidacy of the 10 due to incomplete files in their applications. AFP

Top officials arrested in Mali

BAMAKO—Coup-ruled Mali has arrested officials including two presidential hopefuls in a show of force by a junta that ousted power last month, as the country's leader named a Microsoft executive as prime minister. Those arrested included former Prime Minister Modibo Sidibe and Soumaila Cissé, a former minister who led the West African Economic and Monetary Union until November last year. Cissé suffered an unspecified injury while fleeing his home, and was later arrested at a hospital and taken by ambulance to the junta's headquarters in Kati, near Bamako, a family source said. AFP

Bin Laden's family leaves Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—Osama bin Laden's three widows and their nine children were extradited to be deported to Saudi Arabia overnight, almost a year after US Navy SEALs killed the al-Qaeda chief at a compound in northwest Pakistan, their lawyer said on Tuesday. The family was detained by Pakistani authorities immediately after the predawn raid on May 2 in Abbottabad. The three bin Laden commanders left their behind but took Bin Laden's body, which they later buried at sea. The captives were interrogated by Pakistani officials and eventually charged last month with illegally entering and living in the country. They were convicted on April 2 and sentenced to 45 days in prison, with credit for about a month served. Their prison term, which was spent at a well-guarded house in Islamabad, ends on Sunday. AP

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

UN eyes own aircraft, more troops in Syria

BEIRUT—A United Nations mission to oversee an end to violence in Syria may need to bring in its own aircraft and deploy more troops to ensure that a firm ceasefire takes hold throughout the country, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday.

A six-day-old truce has held in some parts of Syria since President Bashar al-Assad pledged to enforce it last week. But in strong opposition areas such as Homs, Hama, Idlib and Deraa the army continues to attack and bombard rebels, using heavy weapons in violation of the pledge by Damascus to quell both.

After negotiations led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan setting an envoy of the United Nations and Arab League, Assad's government has agreed to allow a small UN force to monitor the ceasefire.

But the planned 250-strong mission is a fraction of the size of UN peacekeeping forces sent to other conflicts, coming double among Assad's opponents about whether it can be effective or will serve as a fig-leaf exhibition for more robust action.

Annan delivered a status report to Arab League ministers, who called on Assad to let the UN observers do their job.

"We fully support Mr. Annan and his six-point plan, but sadly the killing still goes on," Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabr al-Thani told reporters after the meeting. "We are fearful that the regime is playing for time. We expressed this to Mr. Annan."

UN Secretary General Ban said the ceasefire was being "generally observed" although there was still violence. But the 250 observers would be "not enough considering the current situation and the vastness of the country."

He said in Luxembourg that the UN was asking the European Union to provide helicopters and planes for the operation, which he would propose formally to the Security Council on Wednesday.

It was not clear whether Assad would agree to allow more UN troops and foreign aircraft into the country. A political source in neighboring Lebanon said Damascus had already refused the use of UN helicopters.

The period for the mission—which must have Syrian consent—is being worked out in Damascus by a team of UN peacekeeping officers.

Monitors also made an exploratory trip outside the capital. "A group of international observers visited Douma to the south of Syria today," UN spokesperson Khalid al-Masri said. Reuters

MOROCCAN Col. Ahmed Himiche (center) and two other members of a UN monitor team walk through the lobby of a hotel in Damascus. AP

After 24 years, Suu Kyi to travel abroad

SUU KYI

RANGOON—Nobel Peace Prize laureate and newly elected lawmaker Aung San Suu Kyi will travel outside Burma (Myanmar) for the first time in 24 years after accepting invitations to visit Norway and Britain in June, her party said on Wednesday.

Her travel caps months of dramatic change in Burma, including a historic by-election on April 1 that won her a seat in a 440-seat parliament that replaced nearly five decades of oppressive military rule.

Her trip will include a visit to British city Oxford, where she attended university in the 1970s, said National League for Democracy party spokesperson Nyan Win.

"But I don't know the exact date yet," Nyan Win said, adding he did not know which country she would visit first. She has previously indicated that it would be Norway.

Suu Kyi, 66, was first detained in 1989, and spent 13 of the next 21 years in detention until her release from house arrest in November 2010, refused to leave the country during the latter periods unless she was sure that she would be allowed back in. Reuters

soon in the month's by-election. Following a series of reforms under President Thein Sein, a former general, including the release of political prisoners, more media freedom, dialogue with ethnic militias and an exchange rate unification seen crucial to fixing the economy, Suu Kyi was invited to visit Britain when she met Prime Minister David Cameron in Rangoon on Friday. At the time, she said the fact that she would consider the office rather than reject it outright, showed "great progress" had been achieved in Burma.

"Two years ago I would have said (I'd) rule you for the foreseeable, but sorry," she added. Reuters

At the MOA signing for the operation of pedestrian overpasses in Marikina and Valenzuela, Valenzuela City Engineering Office OIC Pascual Nebas, SM Supermalls President Annie Garcia, MMDA Chairman Atty. Francis Tolentino and Marikina Mayor Del De Guzman during the MOA signing at the SM Corporate Offices. They were joined by SM officials (standing from left) Joje Rivera, Lisa Sison, Ben Mateo, Steven Tan, Johanna Rupisan and Atty. Ryan Sanjuan

SM Prime signs MOA for the operation of pedestrian overpasses in Marikina and Valenzuela

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Department of Public Works and Highways and the local governments of Marikina and Valenzuela for the maintenance and operation of pedestrian overpasses in SM Marikina and SM Center Valenzuela.

The partnership formalizes the coordination and work between these government units and agencies, and SM Prime Holdings, Inc. to take charge of the operation of footbridges beside SM Malls to ensure the safety and convenience of mall-goers and other commuters.

A 110.53-meter pedestrian footbridge is connected to SM City Marikina crossing over Marcos Highway. It was operational since September 2008 - the same time the SM mall was opened to the public. Furthermore, in 2008, a 50.53-meter extension was constructed on the east-bound side of Marcos Highway up to the area fronting the LRT 2 Santolan Station. This enables the commuters to access the pedestrian footbridge directly to and from the mall.

Meanwhile in SM Center Valenzuela, a 36-meter pedestrian overpass was built crossing over MacArthur Highway in February 2008. It was also constructed for the safety of pedestrians and public transportation commuters, and to ease on-and-off the congestion of vehicular traffic in the highway.

SM Supermalls President Annie Garcia, MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino, Marikina City Mayor Del De Guzman and Valenzuela City Engineering Office OIC Pascual Nebas recently formalized the partnership by signing the MOA at the SM Prime Corporate Offices in the Mall of Asia complex. SM Supermalls Vice Presidents for Operations Ben Mateo and Steven Tan, AVP for Operations Lisa Sison, Regional Operations Managers Joje Rivera and Johanna Rupisan, and SM Prime Holdings, Inc. Vice President Atty. Ryan Sanjuan joined them at the event.

Gunman in Norway massacre says he would do it all again

BREIVIK

OSLO—The gunman behind last year's Norway massacres said he would "do it again" as he took the stand at his trial on Tuesday, after a judge who called for him to face the death penalty was dismissed.

Granted clearance to deliver a lengthy address in the court, Anders Behring Breivik described his killing of 77 people as a "preventive" attack to defend white Norwegians and avoid a Europe-wide war with Muslims.

And after describing Christians as "a persecuted minority" the 33-year-old asked the court to free him while making clear he had no remorse over last July's bomb attack in central Oslo and shooting spree on a nearby island.

"Yes, I would have done it again," Breivik told the court on the second day of the trial, adding that spending his life in prison or dying for his people would be "the biggest honor."

On July 22 last year, Breivik first killed eight people when he set off a bomb in a van parked at the foot of buildings housing the offices of Labor Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, who was not present in the area.

He then traveled to Utoya island where, dressed as a police officer, he spent more than an hour methodically shooting at hundreds of people around a ruling Labor Party youth summer camp.

The shooting spree claimed the lives of 69 people, mostly teens trapped on the small island surrounded by icy waters. It was the deadliest massacre ever committed by a lone gunman.

Breivik on Tuesday evoked the idea of accomplices, telling the court that no other one-person "cells" existed.

"I am a cell now and made prudent call, and I am convicted in two cases," he told the Oslo District Court.

In his address to the judges, Breivik compared the Labor Party's youth wing AUF to the Hitler Youth, saying he targeted them as Utoya's because "most AUFs are naive and indoctrinated." AFP

Warren Buffett has prostate cancer

BUFFET

WASHINGTON—US tycoon Warren Buffett announced on Tuesday that he has early-stage prostate cancer, and indicated he had no intention of stepping down as head of his investment firm Berkshire Hathaway.

Buffett, a larger-than-life financial legend in the "Oracle of Omaha" for his investment savvy said: "I feel great."

With his big glasses and preference for Cherry Coke, Buffett is known for his humble manner and modest lifestyle despite amassing billions as the mastermind and chief executive of Berkshire.

Buffett told the investor three spots on the Forbes rubric for richest list last month, with an estimated net worth of $44 billion.

In a letter to his company's shareholders, released after the stock markets closed, Buffett disclosed he had been diagnosed with Stage 1 prostate cancer last Wednesday and would undergo radiation treatment beginning in mid-July.

Imaging tests revealed no cancer elsewhere in his body, the shrillest 81-year-old investor said.

"The good news is that I've been told by the doctors that my condition is not remotely life-threatening or even debilitating in any meaningful way," he said.

Buffett said that he and his doctors had decided on a two-month treatment of daily radiation, which would ensure his cancer "has only one (otherwise classic) tiny daily worry." "I feel great—as if I were in my normal excellent health...and my energy level is 100 percent," he said. AFP

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

INDICATORS
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 18, 2012
42.650
STOCK MARKET
▲ 28.92
● Share prices continue to set record
(Can story on page B2)

ALI to roll out ₱90B worth of projects in '12

Ayala unit sees 'period of most rapid expansion'

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT Ayala Land Inc. plans to roll out 67 new projects worth P90 billion this year as part of its "unprecedented" expansion across new locations and new market segments in the country.

The record expansion is in line with Ayala Land's target to double up on annual net profit of over P10 billion by 2014, equivalent to a 15 percent return on equity, top officials said.

"We're moving to a period of record expansion," ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala said during the company's stockholders' meeting on Wednesday. "This is the period of our most rapid expansion."

ALI president Antonino Aquino said the projects to be launched this year would be supported by a spending budget worth P57 billion—sourced internally.

The property business continues to be robust, Aquino said, describing the first three months of the year to be a "very good" quarter based on sales take-up.

"Based on indications to date, the numbers all continue to look very good relative to the demand. We've seen that the demand for our products remains very high and this will translate to positive results. Also, interest rate remains favorable, that means [buyers] can refinance," Aquino said.

As part of the expansion plans, ALI will double its landbank over the medium term from the present 6,000 hectares.

Aquino said the "World" eco-devel opment in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, for instance, would be replicated in Cavite, Pampanga and Rizal.

ALI 03

SMC plans to raise capital stock by over P50B

SAN MIGUEL Corp. plans to beef up its capital stock by over P50 billion based on current market prices.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday, SMC said it would seek approval from shareholders to issue to its shareholders of record as of May 10 preferred shares totaling 1.1 billion with a par value of P1 apiece.

Based on SMC's closing price of P113.16 a share yesterday, the additional 400 million common shares that the company plans to issue may be worth P44.46 billion, although these will not necessarily be issued in a single tranche.

The authority to issue more common shares will give SMC the flexibility to sell shares for future requ-

(BW/B3)

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Stocks soar to new high

East West Bank IPO priced at P18.50 a share

GUTIERREZ LED East West Bank has priced its initial public offering at P18.50 per share, at the low end of the original price range.

This price will bring the base IPO size to P4.545 billion which can be upsized to P5.22 billion if the over-allotment option were exercised.

An industry source involved in the equity deal said the price was about 1.12 times the **bank's reported book value this year which,** stock dealers said, offered a discount to the levels at which other listed local banks were trading, currently at 1.5 times book value.

The offering will bring to public hands the ownership of about a quarter of the company and raise funds for expansion in line with aspirations to become one of the country's major banks.

In this level, the offering is a "big" said PNB Securities deputy chief Manny Lubiena. "The low investor environment is perfect for to target market segment, (which is) consumer b ance."

Joseph Sitoa, president of Eagle Equities Inc., said the offering price was "acceptable." "It was priced to sell," Sitoa said.

Among listed banks, Bank of the Philippine Islands was still the most expensive at 2 times book value (P/B) while other major banks were trading at less than 2x P/B). He said the cheapest ones—Union Bank and Rizal Commercial Bank Corp.—were currently trading at less than 1.5x P/B). As such, he said East West's offering was close-to-right.

East West Bank chair Jonathan Gotianun had said the stock debut also meant the bank was "prepared to subject itself to higher standards of corporate governance." Lifting, Gotianun said, would also give East West a "new currency" to fund potential merger and acquisitions. —Doris C. Dumlao

Infra project deal up for bidding

By Jerry S. Bueza

MALOLOS, Bulacan Challenge Investors Philippines (MICH.PI) is set to bid out in June a contract for the rehabilitation of a 6.6-kilometer road section in Bulacan under the P2.6-4 million Secondary National Roads Development Project.

In a statement, MICH.P said the contract would cover the rehabilitation of the road from the San Jose/Iriga Municipal boundary to Bulacan/Nueva Municipal boundary in Eastern Samar. The project will be funded by the US-backed Millennium Challenge Corp.

The contract duration is 1,095 days with the project expected to start on Aug. 15.

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 7, while deadline for bid submission is June 21.

MICH.P said the 6.6-km rehab project would be one of the four projects to be undertaken under the P2.4-million (US$58 e-234-kilometer road project.

The other three contracts will cover the 16.3-km road project from Nueva Ecija to Barangay Tinam in the Municipality of Pantabangan, a 10.9-km road project from Barangay Tinam in San Jose/Gabaldon Municipal boundary and the 79.3-km project from Bulacan/Nueva Municipal boundary to Dingalan, all in Aurora.

More active market expected

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE stock market soared to a new high on Wednesday as investors across the globe took heart from encouraging developments in the United States and Europe.

The main share Philippine stock exchange closed at a record high of 5,186.20, gaining 28.92 points or 0.56 percent, continuing the welcoming trend for the fifth session.

The index breached the 5,200 level in intra-day trade.

"The confluence of positive news from Europe and the US was a strong incentive for buy-ers," said PNB Securities vice-deputy chief Manny Lubiena.

"Spain was still able to auction treasury bills, reducing fears that it lacks the ability to raise funds, at least for the short-term. In the US, strong earnings results from blue-chip industrial-ogy and financial sector stocks boosted investor confidence," Lubiena said.

Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Index surged by 194.13 points or 1.5 percent to 13,135.36.

Ramon Lucas, president of RTG & Co., said the PSEi was now moving toward its target of 5,500 by the second semester.

"Expect more active market in the coming days with the entry of UC (Capital Holdings) coupled with investors' interest on the local bourse," Lucas said.

GT Capital is set to list on the local bourse on Friday.

The index was last higher by Megaworld (+3.45 percent), BDO (+1.43 percent), AGI (+ 2.74 percent), SM Investments (+1.08 percent), SMC (+2.91 percent), DMCI (+3.34 percent), ALI (+1.62 percent), ABS (+2 percent) and Filst Gen (+1.08 percent).

Second liners like GMA Holdings, Security Bank and Petron Corp. likewise advanced, increasing by 3.45 percent, 2.08 percent and 3.75 percent, respectively.

Bloomberry to hold $200-M equity offering

BLOOMBERRY Resorts Corp. of tycoon Enrique "Ricky" Razon Jr. will soon embark on a $200-million equity offering to fund the development of its Solaire casino project in Pagcor City.

Bloomberry mandated UBS and CLSA to arrange a re-initial public offering (IPO) after its lackluster listing on the local stock exchange, industry sources told the Inquirer.net.

The re-IPO will be done through a "top-up" offering, which means Razon's group will first "lend" some secondary shares for a quicker equity deal but the proceeds will flow into the company as the placement will later purchase the same number of primary shares that will be issued at a later date.

Proceeds will help fund the completion of Bloomberry's $1-billion hotel-casino project, Solaire Manila, the first gaming complex to open in Pagcor City toward the end of this year.

The sources said this equity deal—which would likely be launched in the next few weeks—would help "correct" the market's "overvaluation" of Bloomberry shares at the local stock market.

"This placement will reflect its true value," one source said.

As of yesterday's close, Bloomberry has a market capitalization of P149.46 billion based on its closing price of P33.50 per share which fell by another 15.5 percent in anticipation of a new shares issuance.

Bloomberry is believed to be trading at "oversubscribed" levels because the market was overwrought with Razon's backdoor listing through Asia Gaming, and many bought shares at higher prices. But creamier Bloomberry shares have been falling as the market started to look more closely into its net asset value, stock dealers said.

For instance, Bloomberry is currently valued higher than typical casino New York Atlantic Global Group Inc., which already has a successful entertainment/gaming venture at Newport World Manila and a license to build another complex at Pagcor City ALI, however is valued at only P1.2-to-1 billion based on yesterday's close.

Another peer, Belle Corp., is valued at only P52.58 billion when it is expected to open its casino complex in Pagcor City shortly after Bloomberry's debut. Also, Belle has future owner Tagaytay Highlands in its portfolio.

Phase one of Razon's project Iris features Draperies Inc. and gaming firm Bloomberry Resorts and Hotels Inc.) is a 14-storey building complex with a 75-storey hotel on top of a three-level podium and a 10-story parking building with an 11th floor for mechanical and equipment. The hotel, restaurants, retail, recreation and back-of-house facilities will occupy 75,484 sq. meters while there will be about 22,268 sqm of casino and gaming space. Razon's Bayside Properties and gaming firm Bloomberry Resorts and Hotels Inc. —Doris C. Dumlao

ALI to roll out P90B worth of projects

From page B1

Of the 67 projects worth P90 billion to be launched this year, 30 will be on the residential segment spread out across ALI's five brands. Also, each of the brands will have a mix of vertical and horizontal housing units to be put up across the country, Ayala said.

About 26,000 residential units will be launched in 2012, higher than last year's 20,000.

"It will basically reflect the economic potential in terms of number of units. The bulk will consist of Arnaiz and Bello Vita (the low-cost) brands. Obviously Arnaiz, Alveo and ALP (Ayala Land Premier) will continue to ramp up," ALI senior vice president Bobby Dyogi said.

ALI's shopping mall group, Dyogi said, will also bring to the market 200,000 square meters of leasable area, while 300,000 square meters of office space will be added to its portfolio this year.

On its shopping mall segment, three new retail developments will open this year—the redevelopment of Glorietta 1, Greenbelt Cinemas in Ortigas and Market Market in Bonifacio, which collectively will add a little over 140,000 square meters in leasable area.

For the hotel business, the 349-room Holiday Inn hotel will open in Glorietta center this year, while three boutique hotels under the brand Seda will be constructed in Manila (in Global City, Capitol de Oro and Davao City).

On ALI's tourism/resort portfolio, the Boracay Island in El Nido will start operating by October this year.

During Wednesday's meeting, shareholders also approved a capital restructuring program that will give it leeway to accept more foreign investors as minimum shareholders.

SMC plans to raise capital stock

From page B1

ial raising or new or new stock as necessary, such as in funding acquisitions through a share swap.

In a per value of P5 a share, SMC can also raise at least P5.3 billion from the issuance of preferred shares.

At the end of yesterday's trading session, SMC had a market capitalization of P266 billion.

The conglomerate has been diversifying from its traditional food and beverage businesses in the last few years. It has entered the power, oil, infrastructure, mining, airport and telecommunications businesses. More recently, it bought a controlling stake in flag carrier Philippine Airlines through a P800-million buy-in deal.

Malaysian banking giant CIMB recently struck a deal to buy 49 percent of SMC's banking unit Bank of Commerce. The deal agreement is expected to be signed in the next few days. —Doris C. Dumlao

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of April 18, 2012

Currencies

April 18, 2012 Currency	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Euro Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.00000	41.79000	54.39000
Japan	100	1.22000	0.02900	0.01600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.52000	0.03600	0.02000
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.13000	0.00300	0.00200
Switzerland	Franc	1.11000	0.02700	0.01500
Canada	Dollar	0.98000	0.02300	0.01300
Singapore	Dollar	0.80000	0.01900	0.01000
Australia	Dollar	1.04000	0.02500	0.01400
Taiwan	Dollar	0.03000	0.00100	0.00000
Korea	Won	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.26000	0.00600	0.00300
Thailand	Baht	0.03000	0.00100	0.00000
UAE	Dirham	0.27000	0.00600	0.00400
EU	Euro	1.37000	0.03200	0.01800
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.26000	0.00600	0.00300
China	Yuan	0.15000	0.00400	0.00200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Vietnam	Dong	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
India	Rupee	0.01000	0.00000	0.00000
Qatar	Riyal	0.27000	0.00600	0.00400
Kuwait	Dinar	3.56000	0.08300	0.04700
Bahrain	Dinar	2.66000	0.06200	0.03500
Oman	Rial	2.60000	0.06100	0.03400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.81000	0.01900	0.01000
Brunei	Dollar	0.80000	0.01900	0.01000
Macau	Pataca	0.13000	0.00300	0.00200
Bahrain	Dinar	2.66000	0.06200	0.03500

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Measures to solve Mindanao power problems proposed

By Amy R. Borres

ONE OF THE country's largest business organizations yesterday urged the government to put in place the necessary support and infrastructure that will create a conducive business environment to encourage investors to put much needed power facilities in electricity-starved Mindanao.

In a position paper issued yesterday, the Management Association of the Philippines said the government must pursue the privatization of its remaining assets in Mindanao and put in place the necessary infrastructures, such as the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) and the Leyte-Mindanao Interconnection Project.

A spot market, it said, would provide a platform for electricity trading in the area.

Those medium to long-term solutions are expected to help shore up power supply on the island, which has been experiencing brown-outs (interruptions since the beginning of the year. In the long run, these will help increase the (mainland capacity of Mindanao, which has been heavily reliant on the hydropower facilities.

"For the next four to five years, the Mindanao grid needs additional (mainland) power generation capacities. Given that it only has 27 percent (mainland capacity, it will need about 300 megawatts to 400 MW to meet the minimum (mainland demand that will assure reliable power supply during summer months," MAP said.

Mainland capacity refers to the power generated by facilities that can provide adequate and reliable electricity supply 24/7.

MAP said the privatization of the remaining government-owned facilities such as the Agus-Pulangui hydropower complex was critical as this would eliminate distortions in market pricing caused by government ownership and subsidies.

It will also help ensure the successful commercial operation of the WESM, which will provide power generation companies an avenue to sell their capacities at market-driven prices, without the need to enter into contracts with utilities. This is being implemented in Luzon and Visayas.

"It was because of WESM that excess or uncontracted generation capacities in Luzon and Visayas were made available for the grid for trading. Having true market price signals is the best way to add birds new supplies," the paper stated.

MAP is likewise pushing for the much delayed Leyte-Mindanao Interconnection Project (LMIP), estimated to cost P50 billion, which would allow sharing of excess capacities among the country's three major islands. At present, only Luzon and Visayas are interconnected.

MAP said this interconnection project would enable the (Mindanao) grid to properly make use of and share its hydro re- sources with other grids and benefit from the reserves of other grids.

"Without this ability to share reserves, Mindanao will need to provide reserves equivalent to almost the whole capacity of the Agus and Pulangui plants or a reserve level of 50 percent of supply compared to a more prudent level of 25 percent. This situation will make electricity prohibitively expensive on the island," it added.

Shell inks deal with Magsaysay Transport unit

HELPDAG Shell Swedcham Corp. and Isla Timbers boat transport Corp. (ITSC) recently signed contracts for the time charter of the latter's two double-hull tankers.

The agreements cover ITSC's largest white oil tanker M/T "Initial Island" and its sole black oil carrier M/T "Marina Island."

These double-hull tankers deliver petroleum products from PSPC's refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to their various terminals in the country. Both tanker vessels have an average age of only five years, giving PSPC the benefit of using young and modern, IMO-classed tanker vessels in their distribution system.

M/T "Initial Island" is a double-hull diesoteal tanker built in Korea in 2009, with a deadweight of 5,555. It features 18 cargo oil tanks with individual cargo pumps, making the vessel flexible and versatile enough to carry up to five petroleum product grades at the same time. M/T "Marina Island" is a 4,000 deadweight double-hull tanker built in China in accordance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Regulation 13 of Annex I of the MARPOL for tankers carrying heavy grade oils.

Isla Timbers Transcompany Corp. is a member of the Magsaysay Transport & Logistics Group.

5 smart ways to keep heat out

The new reality is that the world is getting warmer. Find out here how Arya Residences is future-proofed to keep your homes cool and pleasant.

In a 2010 report published in Scientific American, Jay Lawrimore, chief of climate analysis in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) warned that "warmer than average global temperatures have become the new normal." NOAA is a US federal agency tasked to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts and atmosphere in the global ecosystem.

Lawrimore adds, "The global temperature has increased more than .7in C since 1900 and the rate of warming since the late 1970s has been about three times greater than the century-scale trend."

The writing on the wall is loud and clear: memory and keep on living and and was to do something about it.

To tackle this scorching new reality, we use a two-pronged approach: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation requires us to lessen our carbon footprint and live a less-intelligent lifestyle to help slow down if not reverse environmental degradation. Adaptation means accepting the truth of climate change and working towards reducing our vulnerability to its adverse effects. To immediately cope with the present heat, the latter proves practical and doable.

Present day engineering and architecture should be able to meet the demands of the future. This is why Arya Residences is future-proofed to provide homes to shield us from too much heat while easily helping us keep our carbon emissions down.

1 Designed to work with the sun

With the team of experts headed by the brains' brainchild, Arya Residences are positioned to receive the best mixed sunlight. Oriented to face the North and South, units receive only the appropriate amount of light without being heated. With just the right amount of sunlight, lesser artificial cooling and ink required. This natural lighting reaches as much as 85% of the interior, making them brighter and more pleasant.

Brighter and cooler homes demand less energy consumption. Also, reducing the use of non-renewable resources. In turn, at least 10% in electricity cost is shaved off the bill. This also means less toxic elements spewed in the environment.

2 Built-in sun visor

In Arya Residences, design elements do not only serve aesthetic ends. They are carefully studied and integrated to provide practical use for the residents' comfort and convenience. For example, balconies in most of the units are added to provide generous living space and also serve as built-in sun visor for the units below. Ledges are also placed to serve the same purpose.

3 Smart glass protection

Arya Residences is the first and only residential development in the country to afford the luxury of double-glazed, low-E glass windows from ground floor to penthouse. This smart window system serves as double sun-protection, insulating the units from too much polar heat.

The space between the double paned glass prevents heat from seeping out, while the outer glass coating bounces away the hot rays.

4 Harnessing the power of the wind

To keep the units cool, architects and engineers have made sure to position Arya Residences' units to receive the right amount of naturally flowing breeze. Maximizing this advent of air-cooling wind patterns, brother-and-sister

Since the units have right-sized operable windows and accommodating balcony doors, residents can opt to turn off air conditioning and enjoy the cool wind. Free flowing air keeps the units pleasant and the indoor atmosphere healthy.

What's good is that with this nature-enhancing design, and the use of energy efficient air conditioning, AC-related energy consumption is not by as much as 25%, with reduced resource consumption, reduction of environmentally hazardous homes is next to the least.

5 Unique island location for less obstruction

Unlike other condominiums which are tightly clustered with other buildings, Arya Residences is located in a unique island location in the prestigious McKinley Parkway in Bonifacio Global City. Also boundaries by two other streets, Rizal Drive and 4th Avenue, the property is free from major obstructions that will hamper natural wind flow. This also means that heat radiated from the surrounding buildings and not directly affect the units in Arya Residences.

Dedicating up to 70% for open space and with the act of passive cooling provided by natural breeze and water features, the complex is expected to have cozy and easy rides for residents to enjoy any time of the day any season of the year.

To experience a pleasant and heat-protected living, call 836-ALCO (2526). You may also visit the Arya Residences Model Units at the ArthaLand Sales Pavilion, McKinley Parkway cor. 7th Ave., BGC. To get there from EDSA/Ayala Ave. take McKinley Road towards BGC. From the Royal Makati, take the flyover ramp to 7th Ave. St., BGC then turn right at 7th Ave., towards McKinley Parkway.

Tower 1 Top-off Open House Today
10AM to 4PM
at the ArthaLand Sales Pavilion

MANY YIELD TO THE POWER OF THE SUN. ONLY A FEW HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL IT.

AT ARYA, INTELLIGENT DESIGN THAT LETS LIGHT IN AND HEAT OUT IS THE WAY TO LEED.

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Consunji group buys 5.3% of Atlas Mining

By Riza T. Olchondra

DMCI HOLDINGS Inc. of the Consunji group has acquired 5.3 percent of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., according to a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Atlas told the PSE that the buy-in was completed on March 29, 2012.

Atlas welcomed the Consunji group's entry into Atlas, noting its broad range of business interests.

"The Consunji group has ventures in mining, power generation, construction and infrastructure development.

"The investment of DMC Holdings in Atlas signals a positive development for the future prospects of the company's commercial mining operations which will benefit from the technical expertise that the Consunji group will surely bring into the fold," said Atlas executive vice president Adrian S. Ramos.

"With that and the continuing support and leadership of the Ty family's SM group and the Metrex group, I am confident that Atlas stockholders will be looking forward to sharing in the fruits of the growth of the enterprise," Ramos added.

Atlas is a diversified mining conglomerate in the Philippines.

Its wholly-owned subsidiary, Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC), is the country's largest exporter of copper concentrate.

Atlas recently announced that CCC breached $50 million in sales in March with a record production of 7.35 million pounds of copper.

CCC, which operates the Toledo mine in Cebu province, pushed 21 percent more copper in the first quarter of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011, Atlas said.

"This surge in productivity enabled CCC to complete three shipments of copper concentrate to Chinese smelters while in our calendar month end to return a monthly revenue exceeding $100 million for the first time since the start of commercial operations in 2008," Atlas said.

Atlas said this shows the investments in 2011 are starting to pay off.

The listed miner wants to increase CCC's milling capacity to around 56,000 tons per day by 2015 from the present production capacity of 40,000 tons per day.

Global economic outlook improving, says IMF

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund is more optimistic about the global economy after seeing fewer US growth and a coordinated effort in Europe to address its debt crisis.

The global lending organization said Tuesday that the US economy should expand 2.1 percent this year. Europe will likely shrink 0.1 percent and the world economy should grow 3.5 percent. All three of the IMF's estimates are slightly better than its January forecasts.

The group praised European leaders for building up its bailout fund and taking other steps to address the crisis. The 17 countries that use the euro currency should emerge from a shallow recession later this year, the IMF said.

The IMF said the crisis continues to loom as the biggest threat to the global economy.

"With the passing of the Europe's worst crisis, and some good news about the US economy, some optimism has returned," IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard said. "It should remain tempered."

The IMF's World Economic Outlook report comes as the 187 nations organizations and its sister lending institutions, the World Bank, prepare to hold their spring meetings in Washington this week.

The report represents improvement from January when IMF officials warned that the global economic recovery was in danger of stalling.

Many then, European leaders have worked together on a plan intended to contain deficit spending.

New governments in Spain and Italy have committed to reforms and spending cuts. And the European Central Bank has lent more than $1 trillion to the region's banks. That has brought down borrowing costs in some of the most troubled countries.

In the US, economists are spending more, business investment has grown and the job market has shown "signs of life," the report says.

"Mainland said that recent steps to boost Europe's bailout fund to almost $1 trillion are important, but that some caution solve the crisis.

One key challenge for Europe is balancing the need to cut government budget deficits without choking off growth, he added. That is made more difficult by investors, who demand deficit cuts but react badly when such cuts reduce growth. Spain is struggling with this challenge at the moment, Blanchard said.

The risk that Europe's debt crisis could worsen remains high, he noted. And even if it does not, growth in most advanced economies is likely to remain slow.

China's growth is forecast to slow to 8.2 percent in 2012, a healthy pace but down from 9.2 percent last year. Japan's economy meanwhile, is forecast to expand 2 percent this year after contracting 0.7 percent last year.

Fund cites efforts in Europe to solve crisis

LVMH Q1 sales up 25%, Asia provides big boost

PARIS—LVMH, the world's biggest luxury goods group, said first-quarter revenue grew 25 percent, thanks to particularly strong growth in Asia and the United States, as wealthy shoppers shrugged off a tumultuous global economy.

Describing the economic outlook for its home base of Europe as "uncertain," LVMH said on Wednesday it would keep a tight control over costs and continue to grow its brands which include Louis Vuitton, champagne house Moet Hennessy and fashion designer Celine.

Quarterly sales rose to 6.38 billion euros ($8.65 billion).

On a like-for-like basis, revenue increased 14 percent year-on-year, with the strongest divisional growth seen at staff-friendly brand Sephora and Dfs, a chain of shopping centers.

Sales of fashion and leather goods, which account for around one-third of group revenues, rose 12 percent on a like-for-like basis.

The conglomerate said that Louis Vuitton, which accounted for half of group operating profit in 2011, continued its double digit revenue growth.

In February, chief executive Bernard Arnault said that the company's priority remained organic growth, with acquisitions the exception.

Last year LVMH bought haircare powder Bulgari, helping to account for a 14 percent rise in reported revenue growth for the quarter in the watches and jewelry division.

Despite the growth, the division remains mainly small. Arnault is fond of acquisitions in fashion and leather goods, which rose 17 percent.

LVMH, which took the luxury world by surprise in late 2010 by announcing it had built a stake in Hermes, said in December its holding had risen to 22.5 percent though it repeated it did not want to buy the maker of Kelly handbags and silk scarves. Reuters

PEOPLE pass a shop selling mobile phones by Samsung, Nokia and Apple in Hanoi. Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. will overtake Nokia Oyj as the No. 1 cell phone manufacturer in a slowing global handset market, a Bloomberg poll of banks, brokerages and research firms showed. REUTERS

Stock trading comes to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH—Trading on Cambodia's stock exchange has begun for the first time after a state-run company completed its initial public offering.

The stock exchange opened officially launched in July 2011, but trading only began Wednesday, a delay blamed in part on time needed to finalize investment laws.

Some 12 million shares of the state-run Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority were offered at a fixed price of 6,000 riel ($1.37) per share.

Prime Minister Hun Sen has expressed hope the stock market will be a new way for Cambodia to attract foreign capital besides the international aid that is on refuse on and bank loans.

"Today's launching of securities trading in the Cambodia stock exchange, will finally end the wait, from the public, national and international investors, for the birth and operation of this new market," Hun Sen said on opening ceremony via a video link from his home.

Cambodia's economy was left in ruins by the Khmer Rouge's brutal rule in the 1970s, during which money and private property were abolished and investments fled.

An estimated 1.7 million people died from torture, starvation, malnutrition or lack of medical care.

In more recent times, the country's reputation for endemic corruption has held back the entry of foreign investment.

Three other states owned companies, Telecom Cambodia and the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, plan to list company shares on the exchange.

Cambodia is one of the last Southeast Asian nations to open a stock market. Neighboring Laos opened its doors in January last year and Vietnam's exchange has operated since 2000.

Plans for the stock market were first announced in 2007 and its opening was twice delayed. AP

Sony Corp., AU Optronics in talks on OLED TV production

TOKYO—Japan's Sony Corp is in talks with Taiwan's AU Optronics Corp to jointly produce next-generation OLED televisions, the Nomimi Shimbun reported, positioning itself for the post-liquid crystal display (LCD) TV market.

A commitment by Sony to a technology that Korean rivals Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics are promoting would move closely define the battle lines over what is seen as the next generation of TV sets to replace LCDs.

Both Sony and AU Optronics declined to comment on the report, which comes after Sony's new CEO, Kazuo Hirai, last week suggested he was open to cooperation in new TV technologies as he outlined his business strategy for his loss-making company.

An industry source told Reuters earlier this month that there was talk Sony was considering a tie-up with AU Optronics.

"We know that Sony will have its focus areas kind of ar- rance with a third party since it would be difficult for it to capture more share in the OLED TV area alone. It's not a surprise if it is considering a tie-up (with AU)," Noboru Ekuraoki, an analyst at Mizuho Investment Securities, said on Wednesday.

"For Taiwan and Japan, their interests coincide. If they don't do anything, there will always be a gap in market share," he added, pointing to competition from South Korea.

Both Samsung and LG in January displayed prototype 55-inch OLED (organic light emitting diode) screens - which boast sharper images and do not need backlighting - at the CES consumer electronics show in Las Vegas.

Sony, which pioneered the technology with the world's first OLED TV in 2007 halted production of the 11,000 screens for convenience in 2010 amid a global downturn, becoming rumored on 3D. Sony still makes OLED screens costing as much as $26,000 for high-end business customers.

But any market of easily cost-thin OLED displays, the obstacle to consumer acceptance is price, as is rumored from a big off $10,000. The 55-inch models from Samsung and LG would be ten times the price of an equivalent LCD TV.

The company that can find a way to mass produce at a sharply lower cost would have a headstart over its rivals. Reuters

Shares up on easing worries over Spanish debt

TOKYO—Asian shares rose on Wednesday as firm demand at Spanish debt sales and positive US corporate earnings boosted investors' confidence in riskier assets.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan climbed 1.2 percent, led by Australian shares which charged to a two-week high, following a rally in European and US equities the previous day that saw Wall Street stocks scoring their biggest gain in a month.

Japan's Nikkei average jumped 2 percent.

"There is a sense of relief after investors heard sure handle with Spanish debt falling after successful short-term debt sales," said Hirokazu Fukuma, a senior strategist at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo.

"Markets are undergoing a consolidation phase after a strong rally earlier in the year, and if Spain's bond auctions on Thursday pass without a problem, investors will likely become more committed to risk taking," he said.

A rally in equities spilled over to Asian credit markets, with the spread on the iTraxx Asia ex-Japan investment grade index tightening by 6 basis points from 160 a more than planned 3.2 billion euros ($4.21 billion) of 12- and 36-month bills on Tuesday due to good demand from domestic banks, easing worries about the euro zone's refinancing ability.

Yields on 10-year Spanish government bonds fell back below the 6 percent level reached on Monday, when worries over the banking system, deficit and recession flared up. Spain faces a far more significant challenge on Thursday, with an auction of three- and 10-year bonds.

"From Spain's debt sale to US corporate earnings, all signs may have been positive but it's too early to get carried away," said Ken Jeong yoon, an analyst at Woori Investment & Securities.

A German ZEW investment survey rising unexpectedly in April to its highest level since June 2010 helped turn around the bearish mood, while the International Monetary Fund also offered a more optimistic view on global growth on Tuesday as the US recovery gains traction and dangers from Europe recede.

But it noted risks remained high and the situation was very fragile.

Europe is seeking to bolster its fragile safety net as tightly interconnected euro countries struggle to implement fiscal austerity measures, with differences developing over the allocation of funds from the euro zone's rescue fund.

The Handelsblatt Zeitung daily said on Wednesday several finance ministers and senior officials of the European Central Bank wanted to allow the euro zone's rescue fund lend directly to troubled banks without going through the government of the country in question. But the main donor nations, notably Germany, is adamantly opposed to any measures they regard as loosening governments' grip on financial reforms. Reuters

PEOPLE walk past a bank office of the Hana Bank in Seoul. South Korea's central bank on Monday reversed its forecast for economic growth in Asia's fourth-largest economy this year due to a global downturn and weak domestic demand. REUTERS

China FDI in Q1 signals overseas uptick, policy seen steady

BEIJING—China logged foreign direct investment at a record setting pace in the first three months of 2012, but an easing in its monthly momentum and a shift out trade outlook will keep monetary policy poised to step pressure for top-dip in capital inflows.

The first-quarter inflow of $293.8 billion lowers China on course to surpass 2011's $116 billion record, even though inflows compared with a year earlier have fallen for the successive months, Commerce Ministry data showed on Tuesday.

A 3.9 percent leap in inflows to $11.8 billion in March from February - typical after the Lunar New Year - was a fresh sign that capital flow is flowing enough to underpin money supply growth, following a $124 billion first-quarter jump in foreign exchange reserves.

"I don't think this changes anything for monetary policy" Shuan Thornton, economist at ING Global Insights in Beijing, told Reuters.

China's government has been fine-tuning economic policy settings since the autumn of last year as the outlook for the global economy darkened, export growth sank and capital inflows eased sharply, most of money supply stalled.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) has cut by 100 basis points the ratio of deposits banks are required to keep as reserves (DRR) to keep credit and money supply growth steady.

The two moves added an estimated 800 billion yuan ($127 billion) of lending capacity to the economy. The PBOC said last week that broad money supply rose 13.4 percent in March from a year earlier, stronger than market expectations for 12.8 percent and ahead of the previous month's 12 percent pace.

Economists forecast another 150 bps, or 1.2 trillion yuan in RRR cuts for the rest of 2012 to help cushion China's worst slowdown since the global financial crisis of 2008/09. "There are signs that the economy has reached a bottom, but there's nothing to suggest a recent data that equity investors should be positioning for a strong rebound or anything like a V shaped recovery," Thornton said.

China's economic growth has slowed for five straight quarters. The annual growth rate in the first quarter eased to 8.1 percent from 8.9 percent in the previous three months, below an 8.3 percent consensus forecast in a Reuters poll.

Seasonally strong FDI and a re- turn to an overall trade surplus of $6.35 billion in March herald the prospect that a revival in global growth is lifting overseas demand just in time to compensate for a slowdown in the pace of domestic activity. FDI is an important gauge of the health of the internal economy to which China's vast factory sector is orientated, but is a small contributor to overall capital flows compared to exports, which overseas sales down $3.9 million in 2011. REUTERS

Most Pinoys said to have no bank accounts

By Michelle V. Ramos

ABOUT five of 10 heads of Filipino households do not have any bank accounts, and most do not have enough cash saved up for emergencies.

These are some of the highlights of the first Consumer Finance Survey (CFS) conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Monetary officials said the results of the survey underscored the pressing need for the banking sector to reach out to more Filipino consumers and teach them the value of saving.

Based on the survey, most respondents who said their families did not have any savings to speak of also saw no need to apply for any type of bank account because they would not have enough money to deposit. Other reasons cited were the high amount of minimum deposit balance required by banks and the inversion of most respondents in dealing with banks.

BSP: 80% of households see no need to avail of finance services

According to survey, about 4 of 10 households do not have any cash on hand to be used in case of emergency while 6 of 10 households have very little cash to spare. Average cash on hand of Filipino families that may be used for emergencies stood at only P1,081.

These results may be traced partly to insufficiency of income. Also, lack of access to banks and the high tendency of Filipinos to spend—rather than save or invest—greatly influenced the results of the survey, the central bank said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a press conference yesterday that the survey extended the need for greater effort "towards a more inclusive financial system," where more people would have access to bank products and services, such as deposits and loans.

Such an effort is necessary, Tetangco said, if the government hopes to reduce poverty incidence.

He pointed out that the public's savings can be tapped by banks to use them to extend loans to fund job-generating investments. Moreover, loans granted to microenterprises serve to lift the income of most poor people.

Tetangco said results of the survey also echoed the need for regular monitoring of financial transactions of consumers outside the formal banking sector.

The survey showed that some Filipinos are inclined to deal with informal money lenders, which may include moneylenders, to finance their needs. One of ten respondents said they have deals with money lenders.

"There is a need to look into shadow banking transactions," Tetangco said.

BSP Assistant Governor Maria Cyd Tuaño-Amador said that currently, the government has no sufficient resources to regulate individual moneylenders. She said, however, that what the BSP can do at the moment is to strengthen its financial literacy campaign by making people aware of the risks in dealing with informal lenders.

"Education of the public may help a lot in consumer protection," Amador said.

Another interesting result of the survey is that 2 of 10 Filipino households depend solely or partly on remittances to support their expenditure requirements, indicating the importance of overseas Filipino workers in financially supporting households in the Philippines.

Moreover, 7 of 10 Filipino households are not civil takers, preferring to rely on fixed income rather than invest in businesses.

The survey, which took a few years to complete, covered 18,320 households nationwide. Data was collected from November 2009 to January 2010.

TETANGCO

Globe sets aside $700M for network upgrade

By Jody Quiroz
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Globe Telecom aims to become Asia's most modern mobile telecommunications provider despite the stiff competition provided by Smart Communications, which just completed a merger with San Cellular.

During a press conference held at the Intercontinental Makati yesterday, Globe said that after the company's annual stockholders meeting, Globe president and chief executive officer Ernest Cu said the company would set aside P700 million for a network upgrade.

The competition heats up in the telco sector, especially with the merger of Smart and San Cellular. Globe will continue to focus on technology play and massive infrastructure improvements, he said.

"The overall message of Globe is the market is enabling new technologies that fully support superior customer experience," Cu explained.

Globe's upgrades comes towards a massive network upgrade already by the telecom's robust growth in revenue and income last year he said.

The telco closed 2011 with a record revenue of P67.8 billion—up eight percent from the previous year, he said.

It now earnestly record of P17.8 billion was also set in the last three months of 2011, which marked a phenomenal 30th consecutive period of growth, Cu added.

The company's query before taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) and net income were also up four percent and 11 percent, respectively.

Describing 2011 as "a banner year in terms of achievements for the continued market gains," Cu said he was confident that the company's growth would further gain momentum this year.

High economic gloat

BREACTIME

Conrado R. Bernal III

SONDAGES, we hear terms like "leapfrog" (as old children's game), "sweet spot" (used to specify like baseball, tennis and golf), or "survival kit" (used by physicists) to describe how our economy is doing. We hear them from the mouths of technocrats in the Aquino (3rd II) administration, for instance, as some business organizations.

Do you think that perhaps they are only trying to make economic concepts easier to grasp for an alarm here, translating economic jargon into something that can be understood by children, golfers and medical physicists?

Seriously, anyway, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, the chief tax man of the government, has been using his passport as recognized traditionally as the captain ball of the current administration's economic team, used the term "sweet spot" in a recent financial conference, organized by the business publication Euromoney.

Attending the same conference was our chief monetary boss, Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., the two-term head of the Bangko Sentral, who also heads our policymaking body, the Monetary Board.

Together, Purisima and Tetangco are said to be the most influential economic officials in the country, primarily because of their respective positions. When they talk, the entire business community listens. They can easily set the direction of the economy.

Thus, everybody in business sat up when, during the Euromoney conference, they talked about the Philippines' dream graphic as the most exciting part of our economic prospects...its so-called "sweet spot."

We are supposed to hit it about six years from now, or in 2018, when a huge portion of our population will have reached the right age to become productive, the age when most people actually start looking for jobs.

By that year, supposedly this country will have something like 65 million in the labor force. As the thinking goes, such a huge work force should offer us a lot of promises for economic growth. We have all the ingredients.

According to the Purisima-Tetangco economic tandem, other countries enjoyed rapid economic growth as soon as they reached the "sweet spot" in their population profiles.

What can probably boost our economic prospects some more is the scheduled integration of the 10 fast growing countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations into an economic bloc three years from now, or in 2015. Perhaps the other countries can provide the capital and technology, while we can cash in on the numbers. Not to mention us being a huge market, of course, what with about 10 million OFWs with spending power.

You see, according to official estimates, among the countries in the region, we currently have the youngest population (median age of 23) people. There really is a lot of energy and ambition among the young adults in our country.

It seems that our economic managers precisely want this country to harness the vigor of youth—something missing in the aging populations of Europe and Japan.

LUCKILY for us, the "sweet spot" line of economic thinking may be exploited—at least in theory—during the annual meeting of the Manila-based multilateral financial institution ADB, or the Asian Development Bank, as even dubbed "Manila Inc."

The 67 member-countries of ADB actually voted to have the event. The last time the Philippines hosted it was more than 10 years ago.

This is really a global conference, attended by central bank heads, finance and economic planning ministers from these 67 member-countries, together with officials of other multilateral institutions, civil society, investment bankers, business honchos and the academe.

I gathered that the organizers expect around 3,000 delegates to register for this year's ADB meeting to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

By the way, the event will also feature the "Philippine Corporate Investment Briefing," to be staged at the SMX Convention Center, aiming to give those 6,000 delegates some information on key industries in the Philippines.

Smuggling is not one of them. And so is piracy.

Anyway, to the ADB annual meeting itself, one of the main topics will be "leapfrogging," a modern day term for an economic strategy suggested for a developing country with a strong labor force, purportedly bypassing industrialization, moving from an agriculture economy and straight to a service-led economy.

The richest countries in the world actually went through phases in their economic development—agriculture, industrialization and service. Industrialization came about when agriculture became efficient, because they needed to process their farm products. The service sector then developed to support the industrial sector.

The ADB annual meeting with this year's theme "Taking the Right Growth Road—Manufacturing and Services for Asia," will look into the trend among developing economies where the service sector provides a strong boost to economic growth.

But tomorrow, what are their prospects alongside the Asian tiger economies, which now include China, by the way, since those highly industrialized countries can be rich markets for the service sectors in the developing countries?

It is said that the globalization of business has allowed countries to export services to other countries, through outsourcing, biotechnology, call centers and outsourced business processes.

The Philippines caught on the trend earlier on. In fact, the Aquino (3rd II) administration claimed that the Philippines had become the world's biggest call centre service provider.

"Leapfrogging," in other words, may be working for us.

* * *

IT IS THE same message that Purisima and Tetangco talked about during the Euromoney conference, when they even added the "sweet spot" to the Philippine demographics they would happen to 2018—the year when our young and able labor force would hit 65 million.

Okay, that "sweet spot" may very well be our best chance to solve the problem of poverty, since we actually missed out on manufacturing as a source of jobs, as it was by smuggling, while our agriculture sector remained in the dark ages.

Still, for us to thrive in the global service sector, we need to invest in education and infrastructure. Mostly, here do you manage 4.5 million going to work to call centers all at the same time without massive traffic? And since our proficiency in the international business language called English is said to be the main factor in our growing BPO sector, how do we keep on educating our youth if we have a shortage of about 200,000 classrooms?

Not to say that the "sweet spot" and even with the "leapfrog," our government really has mountains of work to do.

Otherwise, all the talk about our big break in 2018 for high economic growth is just a lot of gloating.

Government urged to create 'disaster-proof' towns, cities

By Riza T. Olchondra

TOKYO—The Philippines will do well to create "disaster-proof" towns and cities to ensure stable economic development and maximize protection for its citizens, a ranking Japanese official recently said.

In investing in resilient infrastructure as well as training people on risk preparedness and crisis response, the Philippines could reduce the impact of disasters, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Vice President Hidehisa Horinouchi, director general for global issues at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Japan is very much open to sharing our experiences and lessons learned—including those from 3/11 (the triple disaster that struck the country on March 2011)—to provide advice and, if needed, training. Of course, physical assistance is also available to create disaster-proof cities, dams, earthquake-proof roads, bridges and such," Horinouchi, a visiting journalist from across the Asia Pacific.

Despite the huge initial investments needed, disaster-resilient infrastructure "pay for themselves" later on in terms of acquiring less, if any, repair work every time a flash flood, earthquake, or any other form of disaster strikes, Horinouchi said, such infrastructure will also save lives and maintain/connectivity more secure, thereby making people more productive, he said.

Data from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) showed that in 2011 alone, typhoons and natural disasters cost the Philippines P89.23 billion.

Communities still recovering from the devastating storms in 2009 are clamoring for disaster preparedness systems in their respective areas, the World Bank said, citing a study made by the University of Philippines Cebu (UPC) based at the Aemeo de Manila University.

Affected communities are calling on their leaders and local governments officials to implement disaster prepared-ness measures "like early warning signal relief and recovery systems, apart from basic equipment for relief operations.

BUSINESS

Mining can help widen PH economic base, says CMP

By Rica T. Obcemea

ADEMOSING criticism that the mining industry contributes little to the economy a top official of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said the sector pumped capital investments into the economy that helped curb poverty.

Pedro C. Hidrosollo, executive vice president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, said in a statement responsible mining could widen the country's economic base and be able to maximize earnings "tremendous potential to reduce poverty." This was in response to a government report that said "mining contributes little to the economy."

Amonst interest surged when the government drafted its policy four more tolerance to mining investment promotion.

"The period before the Beijing Olympics was significant for the industry because China imported from the Philippines almost all of its nickel ore requirements at extremely high prices," Hidrosollo said.

The mining industry's share in the country's gross domestic product or GDP (a measure of economic growth) almost doubled from 1.2 percent in 2005 to 2.26 percent in 2011, Hidrosollo said.

"Mineral exports made a twofold increase in two years, from $1.05 billion in 2005 to $2.3 billion in 2008 on the back of a bullish market," she said.

Exports hit $1.9 billion in 2010 due to the impacts of the global financial crisis and the decline in nickel prices. To this, Hidrosollo said more investments would be generated if more mining projects were pursued.

Hidrosollo noted that mining could not be expected to contribute more than 8 percent to 10 percent of GDP simply because the product was raw or semi-processed and processing was not yet viable for Philippine-based miners.

Also, she said the number of operating mines declined in the 1990s to the early 2000. Thus, from the 20 percent contribution to export earnings recorded in the 1980s, export receipts went down as only 2 percent in 2003 with, at most, seven metallic mines operating—down from 41 operating mines during the '70s and '80s.

"Cumulative investments from 2005 to 2010 reached $2.69 billion. Perhaps, when major projects in gold, nickel and copper are pursued, the contribution of the industry would easily increase to almost 5 percent of GDP," Hidrosollo said.

She noted, however, that the virtually mining-related small-scale mining sector and the enemy detriment to mining investments on the Mining Act of 1995 being resolved only in 2005, confronting national and local government mining policies, and an exit were holding back development in the sector.

The contribution of gold mining should have benefited the government more if small-scale miners, which account for more than 60 percent of the country's total gold production, pay at least the excise tax of 2 percent of the gross value of gold sold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"In 2010, the government lost almost P1.16 billion in revenue from this mineral commodity because of the big loopholes in tax payments from gold producing small-scale miners. The virtually unregulated sector works in unsafe conditions, unmindful of their negative impacts on the environment because of the money they are to extract gold. Indeed, we should not sacrifice sustainability and our children's future with unsafe and irresponsible mining operations," Hidrosollo said.

PLDT smeNation
Success Made Easy

Reinventing the travel experience

Islands Stay Hotels target the tech-savvy traveler

Boasting and entrepreneur Jay Aldeguer is a pioneer in the tourism business. His two-decade strong souvenir chain Islands Souvenirs is known for shirts and travel memories done in colorful and modern designs.

Today Aldeguer has expanded into hotels, filling the gap in accommodations to target the new breed of travelers. "Travelers have evolved tremendously yet most hotels are still very conventional," he says. "Young travelers are more adventurous and independent-minded. They check the internet instead of travel agencies and brochures. People are more willing to try new places and experience them in a new manner."

He opened two branches of Islands Stay Hotel and an uptown property in Cebu City and a second one in Mactan. There will be six to eight outlets in Cebu by 2013, as well as properties in Boracay, Palawan, Bohol and Manila. In addition to strategic locations, Aldeguer chooses the happy, vibrant feel due to the trademark of his shirt designs. "We are a colorful people, and our brand has always been known to be fun. I felt that the best way to reflect the Philippines was through color."

The upbeat personality also reflects in the hotels' website and communications. Aldeguer uses technology not just to attract more customers but also to offer services that matter. He chose PLDT SME Nation's myBIS. Biz package for his company's connectivity needs and uses MOL, a front-line service bundled with DMAX equipment. "We're paying more attention to the needs of a tech-savvy market. We want them to see that we 'get' them."

Simplifying information. Rooms are inspired by their shirt sizing—S, M, L, XL. "We want things to be straightforward. Travelers don't understand the distinction between standard deluxe, or superior rooms, but we can easily determine small, medium and large. It indicates the ease of use and simplicity of the way we do things."

Free wi-fi. More than a gym or a pool is the hotel free Wi-Fi service is a necessity for staying connected. "Our customers have iPhones, iPads and laptops so our hotels give free Wi-Fi access. Our customers are tech-savvy, design conscious and want to be up-to-date." Even the Islands Bonza Cruises are also connected through Wi-Fi set and are even provided with iPod docks for the convenience of the travelers.

Online Bookings. Islands Stay Hotel relies greatly on its online presence. Bookings can be done online. Employees are always connected and actively use the website. Travelers can also easily book tours via the company's Islands Bonza Cruises. All their businesses are interconnected online via their website—making it easier for the traveler who wants his information at hand.

Jay Aldeguer ventures into the hotel industry with the launch of Islands Stay Hotel to complement his other tourism-based businesses—Islands Bonza Cruises and Islands Souvenirs.

Islands Stay Hotels offer free Wi-Fi internet connection. Aldeguer's myBIS. Biz enables them to check on their email and update their Facebook status from their laps.

PLDT SME Nation Business Head Milo Bautista (2nd from left) joins The Islands Group President and Chairman and PLDT SME Visayas Manager Jay Aldeguer (3rd from left) and Islands Stay Hotel General Manager Jerome Capacio (far left). Above the picture are PLDT SME Nation Area Sales Head Billy Francisco and Account Officer Jo-Jay Misericordia (4th and 5th from left, respectively).

Islands Stay Hotel offers room fees high quality service. Photo Inquirer Southern

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LIFESTYLE Food

CHEF Alexander Tanco cooks his pizza in a custom-built pagan oven at home.

CHEFS COOK FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER (15TH IN A SERIES)

Kneading romance out of a pizza dough

Chef Alexander Lichaytoo Tanco and food writer Liz Yap make sparks fly in the kitchen

By Yvngie Bags-Reyes

CHEF ALEXANDER Lichaytoo Tanco prefers simple, easy-to-prepare food when cooking for his girlfriend, Liz Yap.

This-over pizza is all to glorious toppings—truffles, anchovies, fresh basil, mozzarella cheese, cream cheese, pomodoro sauce and fresh herbs and spices—and Angus beef burger in brioche buns.

"We would both prepare the pizza dough," says 28-year-old Tanco. "Since we do it manually, we take turns in kneading the dough. It's a teamwork between Liz and I."

ENDORO C2

'Panizza,' risotto, homemade sausages–neighborhood Italian fare

My Kitchen is an oasis of good food in a part of town that badly needs it

By Clarise Palanca
Contributor

THE MOST engaging new Italian restaurant that I've been returning to lately is My Kitchen, which is located off Duero Park in Manila. I mention this fact at the top of the article because those who are unwilling to travel outside the Makati-Ortigas axis or who are looking for a stylish new restaurant for a leisure date can stop reading here.

I was myself putting off checking out this place because Manila, with its gaily lured street lamps that manage to be distractingly colorful but provide absolutely no illumination to the pot-holed streets and pot-holed pedestrian traffic markers, is undeniably treacherous and just sounded really, really far.

But it's been a quarter long in need of a good restaurant near that Malate has gone to seed, and My Kitchen fits the bill nicely.

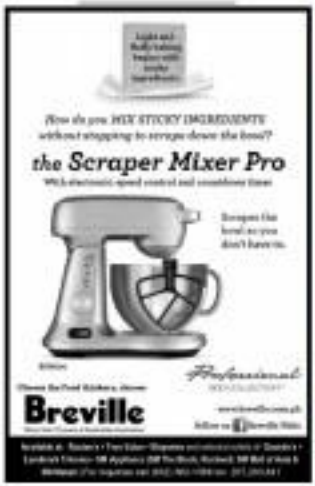
In fact, it's the very model of what a neighborhood restaurant should be; and I'm just sorry it isn't in my neighborhood, because I would be there much more often. There used to be Italian restaurants like this in every unexpected pocket of town, often in odd locations: I remember one that lurked in an unassuming house in UP Diliman in Pantalupon, or another that was wedged in a tiny dining space at one end of Gilmore Street in Quezon City.

As it is, it's very much worth a detour, and as it turns out, the detour has become a bit shorter: one used to have to go to Pampanga for chef Gaia Lorber's 2.0-year restaurant and a bite of what he calls "panizza."

Brilliant dough

The "panizza" is what you should go to the restaurant for and stuff yourself silly with. It comes in a variety of flavors, which all taste vaguely similar but are equally delicious. The toppings are scrumptious.

PANIZZA C2



Fast and easy brownies

BROWNIES

ONE OF MY all-time favorite comfort foods is brownies. All's right with the world, it seems to me, whenever I see a pan of brownies on the kitchen counter. After all, if there's flour, sugar, butter, chocolate and eggs with which to bake some brownies, things can't be all that bad, most likely things are going mostly well. As Martha Stewart would say, it's a good thing.

I've often relied on a favorite brownie recipe whenever I want to bake that classic treat. However, while on a recent visit to Sydney, I learned another recipe from my sister, Cory, who's a long-time Sydney resident. While I thought my recipe was easy and very doable, hers seemed to be far even easier and more doable.

The wonder of it is that this recipe evolved from a recipe I had gotten here many years ago. One of the need to bake something really basic and without fuss, she improvised here and there and voila...a new recipe was born. What's more, the brownies come out moist, with a fudge-like center, just like the way I (and many others) like them.

You won't even need an electric mixer to prepare the batter. All you'll need is a microwave oven to melt the butter and sugar, and a little muscle power to mix the ingredients.

Fast and easy brownies

2 cups/ 1 cup/sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 x all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 tsp salt
½ c unsweetened cocoa powder
1 c coarsely chopped nuts (cashews or walnuts)

Preheat oven to 350°F (175-180°C). Lightly brush the bottom of a 9" x 13" baking pan (or two 8" x 8" baking pans) with shortening. Sprinkle with flour, then tap off excess flour. Or, spray baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Another alternative is to line the pans with nonstick baking paper. Set pans aside.

Combine sugar and butter in a large microwave-safe bowl. Heat in a microwave oven until both butter and sugar are melted, or until butter simmers. Remove from microwave oven (mixture will be grainy). Mix with a spoon then beat in the eggs and vanilla.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and cocoa powder. Add to the mixture mixture and stir by hand just until combined. Stir in nuts. Pour into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven for 30-35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out almost clean (it's okay if there are a few moist crumbs attached). Let cool, then cut into squares.

For more tips, recipes and stories, visit the author's blog: www.normachikamatters.com, and Facebook fan page: www.facebook.com/normachikamatters. Follow on Twitter @NormaChikamoto.

Cook's tips:

- Before putting the batter in the microwave, cut it into squares so it melts faster and more evenly.
- Don't over-mix the batter or brownies don't become tough. Mix just until there are no visible specks of flour.
- Likewise, don't overbake the batter or brownies don't become dry.
- If you're baking this in two 8" x 8" baking pans, make sure to divide the batter evenly between the two pans.

'Panizza,' risotto, homemade sausages–neighborhood Italian fare

Turn page C3

MAIN dish, Lamb; fresh salad as appetizer; My Kitchen Pizza

What is brilliant is the dough, which, in a lifetime of trying, I would not be able to achieve.

The Italians call it *risotto*, which the dictionary tells me is translated as 'risotto,' which doesn't really help much at all. It's more easily defined by what it's not. It isn't crisp like a Skyflakes cracker, not doughy and bready like an American pizza. It isn't crumbly, nor is it durable. It's exactly what a pizza crust should be, and a well made pizza with this kind of crust is difficult enough to find.

Locher has gone one step further and makes it in an oven (a dough can get without it being overcooked, cups it blown by wind when it's out of arugula and alfalfa. One does onto the pizza, cut into thin strips, by swapping it around the vegetables and then either popping it in one's mouth or nibbling at it like a canapé.

There's a lot of disconnect between the "panizza" and the rest of the meal, because if you're already full of bruschetta/calabrese goodness, and a full main course seems somewhat superfluous. I had an excellent lunch there where we shared a salad and three delicious/tender sausages (I'll come from many generations of sausage-makers," Locher informed us), which were just the right amount of food.

Gamey fat

On another occasion, we had the lamb, which was a little bit too much, and the lamb had a bit too much gamey fat, and the meat that there was was insanely tortured. I can't even remember the details, however, which, like everything else, is sparely excellent. nothing fancy, nothing molecular, nothing cheesy, just good, scrumptious, and delicious.

I might even request a little bit more of that Locher sometimes sets on the side of various burgers, like as tasteless guest who's troublesome for a party, but this is, I must reiterate, a very minor niggle. I haven't had such a slew of consistently good meals in ages.

And the restaurant, once you've figured out how to get to it, isn't that far from Makati or San Juan, and is well worth the journey for those who live or work in the area. It's the neighborhood restaurant you've been waiting for, and an oasis of good food in a part of town that badly needed it.

My Kitchen is at The Oasis Hotel on Park Road, 3552 Bolow St., Pasay. Tel. 5212377.

Kneading romance out of a pizza dough

Turn page C4

PHOTOGRAPHER: ROLAN

PIZZA Margherita and Pissaladiere

time. Their common interest would definitely be food.

"I recall our first date all we talked about was food, food and more food," says Tanco, as he remembers that they were introduced twice by two different people who don't know each other.

"It's kind of funny, at least we got to relate in a lot of stuff. Same interests, same likes. So we cut together because we tried to overanalyze things," Tanco says.

Tanco bakes the pizza to a specially made brick oven, pizza-style, at home in New Manila. While he's over, Tanco, hand, high heat and short time bring out new flavors that a conventional oven will never have.

He creates unique combinations of pizza that cannot be found anywhere else. He makes Truffle Pizza (a combination of cheese and truffle paste) and Pissaladiere (mix of cream cheese, caramelized onions and anchovies), and Arugula.

His girlfriend isn't much of a wine drinker, but just the same, Tanco pairs the pizza with white wine.

"We don't usually like to eat fancy food like foie gras," Tanco says. "The simpler the better. A romantic dinner for us is where we both cook for each other."

They once had a romantic dinner of Angus beef burger, prepared from scratch, at Tanco's family farm in Tanauan, Batangas. They had the meat ground and seasoned with salt and pepper. The grilled beef patty was topped with gruyere cheese and savory brioche buns, which they also baked together.

"I cook as much as I can, but sometimes we just want to relax and eat out," says Tanco, son of retailer Lichauco Tanco Jr. and founder of Philippine Pastries Inc. that operates Bizu Patisserie.

Life as a chef

Tanco finished culinary arts at the College of Saint Benilde and never sought to Shanghai, China, to work in a restaurant called Le Planete and currently is Bizu Bistrosyte.

At Bizu, he's in charge of the research and development department, where he creates new items for the menu, standardizes operations and finds new ideas to bring to the company.

He admits he took up culinary arts because of his mom's influence.

"I guess food runs in our blood. Being exposed to the family business at an early stage made me decide that there wasn't anything else I would rather do than be in a kitchen," he says.

Tanco credited what it was like when he was starting out as a chef.

"It was really difficult during my first job in Shanghai. There was a large language gap, the ambiance, are so new. I didn't know anyone. Basically you're on your own. Being raised, delayed and now being exposed to these things made me tougher."

But, if he were not a chef, Tanco says, he'd be doing?

"I've always loved creating things. I guess I wouldn't mind being an architect or an industrial engineer."

Tanco reveals he's partial to French food, the old style. Brittany, more specifically. He ventured as to, is what he would find most interesting. Coming back from Cambodia, he has found another love of Indochina food.

Asked about the chefs he looks up to in the culinary arena, Tanco says:

"There are so many chefs who were here before and now or maybe new-mainstream chefs who are just as good sometimes even better. To name a few, chef Jolina Loh (Singapore); chef Danny Yi (Taipei); chef Justin Quek (Singapore); chef Alan Ardrey (Champerre); and chef Florence Reyes (Bacu).

Pizza Delights

Basic pizza dough:

Yield: 3 pcs 250-g pizza dough

Note: This pizza dough is so simple as a basic ciabatta recipe. Shifting out in paper that may be tricky try using a rolling pin. There are no rules on what shape your pizza may be as we having squares or oval shapes as well. Have serve it to your guest just roll them in ratio.

1 tsp rice wine yeast
1 tsp water
1 tbsp olive oil
1 cup bread flour
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt

Mix all dry ingredients together and create a small well in the center of the mound. Add water and continuously knead until gluten has formed. Cut and portion to 250 g each. Roll into small ball shape. Cover with a towel and allow to rest for about 20 minutes. Once rested, flatten and roll out with a rolling pin until thin almost paper thin. Place on pizza tray and bake in oven about 230-250 °C for about 5-7 minutes or until cheese has melted and dough is nice and crisp. Serve immediately.

Truffle Pizza

My favorite pizza. (Simple yet very easy to prepare. You may purchase the Salsa Tartufata in any Bacchus outlet. The combination of cream cheese and truffle paste create a new realm of aromatic flavor. Optional to add arugula in the end for simple spicy kick.

½ c softened cream cheese
1 c Salsa Tartufata
1 c mozzarella cheese, grated
Yellow basic pizza dough. Bake baking spread softened cream cheese followed by adding Salsa Tartufata and grated mozzarella cheese. You may add arugula after baking to enhance freshness.

Pizza Margherita

The most popular of all pizzas. It's simple yet very delicious. I enjoy it using tomatoes from Baguio City which has many juice and sweetness to it. Adding fresh basil is a must. Always get the fresh basil. Don't settle with dried basil.

½ c crushed pomodoro sauce
1 pc large tomato, sliced
1 c mozzarella cheese, grated
¼ c fresh basil leaves

Follow basic pizza dough. Before baking, spread crushed pomodoro sauce followed by sliced tomatoes and mozzarella cheese. Bake in the oven. Once done randomly sprinkle fresh basil leaves around. Or pizza. Serve immediately.

Pissaladiere

A pizza-like dish from Southern France, this is largely unknown in the Philippines. You will be surprised with the texture of the cream cheese and the sweetness of caramelized onions, plus the addition of the anchovies that gives that extra kick on the taste buds.

Caramelized onions:
4 c sliced white onions
1 tsp olive oil
2 pinch salt

For the caramelized onions: heat oil in a pan to a low heat setting. Add the sliced onions and a pinch of salt. Constantly stir until onions have properly browned and caramelized through about 45 minutes to an hour. Set aside.

½ c softened cream cheese
1 c caramelized onions
½ c anchovies
1 tsp thyme leaves, fresh
1 c mozzarella cheese, grated

Follow basic pizza dough recipe. Before baking, spread softened cream cheese followed by caramelized onions, anchovies and thyme. Sprinkle grated mozzarella cheese around the pizza. Bake in the oven. Once done you may add arugula leaves for freshness.

E-mail the author at @inquirer.com.ph.

'Bagis kambing,' 'kinulob,' 'pastel de pollo'—a feast of Paniqui cooking

FOR MANY, Paniqui, Tarlac, is not the final destination, but a mere passageway to other places. When I see the name on the welcome arch along the highway, it always makes me wonder about this place, but we never stop in its plaza.

Paniqui (pandit means fat, the motherland mermaid that someone told me lived in the mountains down) and led on the fruit orchards of Tarlac. Are the hens still there?

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

Good cooking

So, when we were invited to visit Paniqui and get a chance to taste the cooking there, naturally you we going. The timing couldn't have been better, because there was a food festival then, running called Iloko Iloko. The name is Ilocano for (more friends) and the repetition indicates there would be a lot of it.

The festival site was at the town plaza called Mediterranean. Several long tables were set up with food, along with round tables for the dignitaries. Tickets were sold to the people of the town and the many *barkadahuan* who wanted to partake of the feast and celebrate the cooking of the province.

Our geography lessons in school said that the people of Tarlac are a mix of Ilocano, Pampango, Pangasinense and Tagalog, from the provinces that surround this landlocked place. We were also taught that "melting pot" was the moniker for Tarlac. But that of, as aptly describes the cuisine, because each group has contributed to what is now regarded as Tarlac cooking. And while the provenance of the dishes may come from the different linguistic groups, Tarlapeñitos even-tolize the cuisine as their own.

Some of the food served at Iloko Iloko we were cooked earlier in the yard of Dr. Maria Reyes, who took charge of all the dishes. Several vats were on the ground, boiling with oil or stuffed with cooking food.

We were also shown what had been done even earlier. There was papaitan that was dry, not the soupy kind I'm used to, almost like *dapo*. It's called bagis kambing, more Pampango rather than Ilocano. There was *patabar*, which bowed to the Pampanga serve-not-with squash, and kalderata in huge pots, a runner version of the rich Pampanga stew with olives and cheese.

Just delivered rice cakes made its way to the table, a *labo* or bibingkang malagkit and an *ube halaman* that you could tell was made from pure purple yam. The most tempting was lechon that had just been roasted elsewhere, with Dr. Reyes in charge ready to chop those to fit into chafing dishes.

We had a taste of all that, the lechon taking a lot of our attention because it was done to perfection. And to think we were full from a hearty lunch.

Civic-minded folk

The food was prepared by civic-minded people who went to put Paniqui on the culinary map. And for this, cooking contestants between (nine ladies with home-cooked dishes and served as the residence of Hong Penaranda. He led us to a big black clay pot of *tinola*, usually cooked for Christmas in his family. It was a basic medley of whole native chicken, bone heads, chayote (*labong*, more chicken or pork intestines), and pork hamper (*Tagalog*, all limited slowly with carrots, cabbage and potato. Father's name to mind, *the boiled meat dish*.

Bernardo pointed out some steamed rice cookies that are rarely or not even seen in Manila markets—*malagkit* pasta that his wife, Karen, cooked with pork lempo, and papaya leaves, which are bitter indeed and wouldn't be also cooked.

Dr. Concepcion Llamas made her festive dish of pastel de pollo, which places the pastel ingredients as stuffing for the chicken... quite a creative and different way. Her tempting bite can replace that of *adobo* anytime. She also brought out binubuyan. Interested me that I thought was only to be found in the Cordilleras. It is what farmers eat first thing in the morning before setting out because it was in the orchards.

In Paniqui, only carnivorous makes it, and she is 85 years old, according to our guide Irene Guabo. Who will then take over?

The table groaned with more food—*sinigang* also made with small tie tops, *mukbilh* (*dalag*) served with Ilokos-Indian style sautéed *bagoong* and steamed vegetables, shrimp paste (*bagoong alamang*) to flavor chopped tomatoes, onions, mango and a seaweed that resembled hair strands. And there was Tarlac's kebets, which is here consider, a rice concoction flavored with coconut, is called Ibeet.

Our hosts talked about what we were not having, a sneaky way of telling us there was more than the variety we were having. There is the unsalted *singkamas*, which is uniquely Paniqui, and guinumon agaw or cone-shaped shells (once I find requires one to be a good

LECHON, always a part of the festivities

Home Meeting, the sardines and chili sauce of Jessie and Lina Cruz; the *kesong puti* made from carabao and goat's milk by Dr. Llamas; and the dishes of Digna Sison Go? Or Abrad, up someone like the Ilyaga in Angeles, Pampanga, who will make for you as their house.

E-mail: jrinaylfood94@yahoo.com

CLOCKWISE
from top left, *kesong puti* with kamatis, binubuyan, *inubuyan* (pork cooked in pork), pinpet leaves

The Tarlac town wants to see itself on the culinary map

Kitchen Hobbies
SUMMER WORKSHOPS
FULL REGISTRATION CLOSING
FOR TOTAL KIDS AND UP
BASIC COOKING
BAKING FOR TEENS
Reserve a slot now!

DeLonghi
Fully Automatic Espresso Coffee Machine
Perfect the optimum flavors, aroma, crema, and passion of true Italian coffee with one touch
For every coffee there's De'Longhi
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Bridal exhibit gathers top wedding specialists

THE PENINSULA MANILA will exhibit and promote its wedding facilities at the upcoming spring summer "Weddings at The Peninsula" on Sunday April 22, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at its lobby and exquisitely appointed Regatta Ballroom.

Planning a wedding is an extraordinary task, involving a great deal of research and extensive preparation. The wedding specialists at The Peninsula will take away some of the strain by offering couples a unique Peninsula bridal experience where they can savor the best and most exclusive purveyors, showcasing wedding cakes, flowers, bridal gowns and formal wear, rings and tuxedos, honeymoon and honeymoons.

Those on its third year, "Weddings at The Peninsula" is one of the most beautiful bridal and fashion exhibitions in the Philippines," says Anuja Sinhasik, general manager of The Peninsula. "We are proud of the reputation we have built up as an exceptional wedding venue. Whether one chooses a traditional ceremony or a themed extravaganza, our bespoke wedding packages are designed to make the occasion an unforgettable moment in a couple's life, with our team handling every detail, from the engagement to the joyous day to ensure a flawless event."

COUPLES who confirm their booking on April 22 will get exciting treats.

Entry to the "Weddings at The Peninsula" is complimentary and The Peninsula's dedicated events team will be on hand to answer any queries, as well as to provide their expertise in event management, assisting couples to create a perfect wedding that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Couples who confirm their booking at this year's spring-summer "Weddings at The Peninsula" on April 22 will also be treated to a weekend experience of complimentary buffet breakfast for two in Manila, an overnight stay at the Peninsula hotels in Bangkok, Beijing and Tokyo.

For inquiries and more information, please call (02) 2887-2888 or e-mail weddingevents@peninsula.com.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH BY JES HIRSH

PUGAD BAWDY BY PH. LOSOR

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-O-MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RUBE MACHINE BY PANKA ABRERA

SEPH BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARA CALL

HOROSCOPES

BY BEVERLY GRAHAM

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You will notice that in the next six weeks your focus at home could flow and work. Be prepared for last, some of you might make some major accomplishment.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today the Sun enters your sign which means it will stay in the next month. You deserve it! Your aim is to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the next few weeks, you will need to take a break from your usual cycles of popularity. By summer, you'll be referred to work alone or behind the scenes.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be the best in yourself by going to new places in your life during the next month. By the end of this, through all the billions, and hoping is becoming extraordinary.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Sun is now going to slowly move through one of your charts for the next six weeks. This is a time to be aware of your time happens, and it puts you to the spotlight!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In the next several days, guidance and opportunity to travel to get further educational because you'll want to explore more of life. Enjoy meeting people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Life goes on, people, have been others and unexpected generosity will be coming your way in the next six weeks, Libra-ns. Thank you, world!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): During the next month, the Sun will be in its own front row in front of you. This means you're going to have more sleep because the Sun is also known as energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Expect to be motivated to work hard in the coming month. Act on your ideas and you will be rewarded with a sense of accomplishment and power.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Lucky Capricorns, not only away as in eighties in the coming days ahead. You want to play, party, flirt and enjoy the company with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Home, family and your activity life will be your focus in the next couple weeks. This is also a good time to research or undertake study.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Keep cool in the month ahead you accomplishment to get recognition and progress to you. This is one of your days with assistance!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

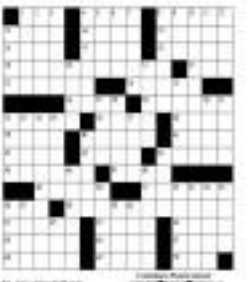
Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Hough

				6				
		1				2		
	3		7	5	8		4	
		4				9		
6		7		4		3		5
		2				8		
	8		2	3	1		9	
		6				7		
				7				

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Chef's 'roti,' 'tom yum,' 'Coffeelicious'—the best Asian cooking in the country, and it's in Baguio

MENU

Margarette Sobkoviak

I dare say the food at this 'sari-sari karinderya' can beat those served at any fine-dining restaurant or hotel in Manila

THE PLACE is easy to miss. Not only is there no signage on the door, the façade gives you no clue, unless clues have been left for Sean Astin cooking in the country.

"Go past the Mansion House, then when you turn right, you'll see a Maldives sign. That's us," was the instruction we were given.

"Eric" is Scotland-and-wife Iniden Alvin and Gina. He met Gina by an executive chef at Marriott Resort in Phuket, Thailand, and she is a lounge singer. He is Hokkaiyan and she is Filipina. They fell in love, but, instead of the Filipina moving to Malaysia, the Malaysian moved to the Philippines. The lady is from La Union, so the place they chose to settle in is Baguio.

Past the Mansion House, immediately after you turn, just as the road begins to go downhill, you spot the Maldives signage on the second floor of an apartment-like building. It's a small restaurant—so small in there? There is a *sari-sari* store. If you look closer, within the *sari-sari* store's perimeters are three tables good for four, though seating is possible to six. A sheet of cloth divides the area from the kitchen, a table is used to serve as the menu.

Amidst this will greet you and next you with her charming smile. On a light day, you get her full attention. But when the shop is full, don't come hungry. You will have to battle with other customers to place your order. Then expect to wait a good half hour before you actually eat, as there is just one cook, Chef Alvin himself, who whips dishes in a kitchen as small as a confessional box.

Deep flavors

But good things come to those who wait. You are served no less than Asian cooking in its finest. I dare say the food at this *sari-sari karinderya* can beat those served at any fine-dining restaurant or hotel in Manila.

The *tom yum* soup is just like what you would find in Bangkok—so spicy that, if you don't sharp it right, it may pierce your throat; yet it also gets away with being refreshing. The beef rendang ribeye is your tongue. Its flavors deep and the beef is soft. The squid salad offers all the joys of summer. The taro pancit is good enough to be eaten on its own.

If you get the chance to have Chef Alvin down, ask for chili sinks. Gina will happily has out a hand with information to make sure you wash your hands and appreciate the delicacy correctly. It is so beautifully savory, with just the right pinch of spiciness and, of course, the beautiful texture that is meant with crab. If I lived in Baguio, I would have this every week with a bottle of cold beer or (when feeling myself) pinot grigio.

The chef's secret is in using a gazillion ingredients with every dish and having those ingredients flown in from various parts of Asia. Cilantro, coriander, basil, seeded sauce, garlic, chili—you name it, it's there for flavor. The couple has friends from various countries whom they contact for orders. The corn you enjoy, for example, runs Thai fish sauce flown in from Bangkok. Other ingredients are flown in from Malaysia or Indonesia.

Unique recipes

There are also unique recipes. "Coffeelicious" is pork rolled in coffee beans then sprinkled with sesame seeds. It looks like pork lucks! The dish have to flat for-eat. for some may stick to your teeth, but, the flavors are amazing. The chef makes classes with the coffee secret.

Another hit is the chef's *sari*. Make sure to reserve, especially if you are in Baguio for a long week-end, or you may miss out on this dish. Word has gotten out about its goodness.

All data from the garage of a sari-sari store. Can you believe it?

Alvin and Gina also accept take-out orders, but it deprives you of the sense of bewilderment as serving here, in the hole in the wall, where the aluminum spoons are bentable and have the dull patina of characterizing as your knife, each flavor abound.

Hands out for chef Alvin focusing, he's the next big superstar to our culinary scene.

Chef's home is in dispute (try: tel. 09 16-4445750.

Visit margaretsobkoviak.com; follow @margaretsobkoviak; like facebook.com/margaretsobkoviak

Good old Recipes, wherever you dine

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Bataa

Consistency is key to this restaurant chain's success

IN 2003, I came across Café Metro along C5, Libis. The food was simple home cooking—a list of traditional Filipino fare, plus anything the customer felt was delicious enough to serve.

Owners Mikay and Ria, whom I know, are both adventurous foodies whose first priority when traveling out of town is to eat at the most popular and most frequented restaurants. When they got back home, the new dishes they've discovered are immediately recreated in their kitchen, experimented on and given a new spin.

Today Café Metro has evolved into Recipes restaurant. The husband-and-wife tandem has not stopped looking for new things to add to the menu. Some of their creations have come from the many restaurants we experienced together in Vancouver, Canada, one of which is a Cambodian restaurant called Phnom Penh.

That restaurant has an extensive menu, but the mouthwatering crispy chicken wings with pepper and lemon dip is one of its bestsellers. I would see traces of sugar on the plate, among other ingredients, which Mikay and I would ask our hostess trying to figure out how this simple dish was so extraordinarily delicious.

One day, of course, Mikay figured it out. The rest of us were just content to be the guinea pigs for his kitchen experiments. Hehe.

Taste test

In June 2011, Recipes did a taste test for a select group of diners at its newest outlet at Bonny World. Again, we were all excited to sample many of the prospective new dishes. With a neighborhood restaurant, we need just enough portion size. The dishes looked enticing. We were given two sheets and served one dish at a time.

Mikay, the chef Gordon Ramsay way in the kitchen shouting out orders to make sure everything that left that kitchen was perfect. (What you see in the "Hell's Kitchen" show is not unusual. Everyone who works in a busy kitchen has become familiar with, even callous, to the "F" word, not to mention loud, shrill voices. It's almost expected and nothing is to be taken personally. If adults lang po.)

Consistency is key to this restaurant chain's success

Apart from Recipes homefave of Crispy Crusted Chicken, Chicky Chicky, eggplant, Crispy Tilapia and a few others, the ones I believed should make the new list are the Calamansi Chicken, Tilapia with Tamarind sauce, and a few others.

The tamarind tilapia is a boneless tilapia dish, crispy fried and served with scrumptious sauce that has a sweet-sour and is just divine. The sauce of the recipe is Mikay's mom Tessie, who is now a resident of Vietnam.

Same quality

Recipes' newest plus chain of restaurants is not like a well-oiled machine by Alvin, the overall manager. He makes sure all the branches maintain the same quality of food. Most of the preparation is done at the commissary, and no matter where one dines, the quality is the same. Consistency is an area that is crucial to the life of a restaurant. It's become the downfall of many chains.

Having said that, this is an area I intend to take exception to in my newly opened restaurant Wooden Spoon on European Avenue, across Bonvoy and next to Bacas Empanada. We just met Ding and I am making sure we can expand our snack table maintaining our high standards of quality. It is a small investment.

Café Metro has come a long, long way. All restaurants should try to duplicate the consistency in food quality this place has mastered. Check it out and its new sisters at any of the Recipes branches. I love going to the one on Jeremiah St.

(HAPPY EATING!)

Healthful and Yummy Treats at Eastwood Mall

Make way for a deliciously healthy summer with the array of gourmet treats available every Saturday and Sunday at Eastwood Mall.

This year, the Weekend Gourmet Market experienced a dramatic expansion. Originally it was only located in the second level of Eastwood Mall. Now it also occupies the third level, thus giving it two floors of space and more exciting options.

The Weekend Gourmet Market specializes in five food categories, namely sweets, savories, fresh produce, healthful treats, and anything gourmet. Up to 50 concepts await shoppers who opt to live a healthy lifestyle this summer. First timers who'd like to keep coming back to the Weekend Gourmet Market are promised variety as the market switches merchants every month.

Treat yourself to gourmet treats by visiting Eastwood Mall's Weekend Gourmet Market and enjoy unique choices you won't find elsewhere. It's located inside Eastwood Mall at the second and third floor, which makes shopping convenient and comfortable.

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Chef-made sandwich bread, 'laksa,' tablea choco cake and 'amoy lumpia'

MY RECIPES, SHOWN: Hey, Inc s proudest for bread.

When Sr. bought home ostensibly to experiment with loaves of sandwich bread in regular and ube flavors, my curiosity was aroused. I could not resist the loaves that were on our dining table. I had to try them, and I was very happy!

They were nice and soft—the regular loaf is creamy milky and sweet, while the ube had the nutritious flour sun only comes from the tuber and not from flavorings or powders.

I immediately bolted one chicken loaves, flaked it fine and combined Japanese mayonnaise, a pinch of pepper, a bit of Madeira sherry, powdered a lot of chopped yellow onions, celery, salt and pepper, mixed them well and, with two crunchy lettuce leaves, sandwiched the spread between two slices of the bread (called cotton soft loaf, I learned).

I still haven't figured out why this would go well with the ube loaf but is thinking of maybe cheese pimiento. Mr. Z says grated cheddar cheese, ½ cup mayo (well pepper, peeled and chopped, ½ cup cream cheese, 2 tbsp softened) butter, is unpackaged and with 1/3 cup sugar, 2 tbsp sugar, salt and pepper to taste. Perfect for tea and snacks.

Family recipes

To my surprise, the delicious loaves are made by Sharlle Bolt, last ruled as Regi Tiam, a former beauty queen (she was the 3 Beatrice St., Rosedale Village). Such establishments are carried by the Tiam brothers.

I immediately called my dear friend, Hong Kong-trained chef Raphael "Paeng" Sison (who, alongside his late brother-in-law Jessie Gabby, opened the famed North Park in 1994) to find him and get another delicious recipe.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aghaven

From him I learned that Regi Tiam is a place where they showcase their collection of family recipes, their little playground where they experiment on things they like to eat. The coffee shop is just a front for a kitchen away from home, or your neighborhood kitchen.

"That is why we made our menu a bit international," says chef Paeng. "Kapi Tiam is foodies' mecca of sorts. Also, we wanted a place that's more welcoming and impressionist. This is where we cook comfort food for our customers and bake our own bread."

A few days after tasting their bread, I dropped by Kapi Tiam to pick up some more. I had been informed that one more call in their, I had called instead.

"We are very proud of our coffee," says chef Paeng. His palate is justified, I must say the coffee is very good...perfectly executed. "Kapi" means in perfect proportions, which every ingredient balances itself off. Yes, sure the sugar—amount just right...not too sweet—and then the milk, distinct but again not too rich. The infusion of the coffee beans to the finish. Delightful!

I couldn't resist the lovely-ladies chocolate cake, served warm and oozing. It is like eating a molten chocolate bar, the consistency across between a cookie dough and a thick cake batter—thick, gooey, fudgy, deadly and sinful! A must-try!

Rich 'laksa'

I love laksa (a Peranakan spicy noodle soup) so I had to have a taste of it, too. It was good. Well rounded—rich, creamy, spicy, not a figure, executed to perfection, keeping the flavors balanced and in perfect harmony without one overtaking the other. This laksa comes complete with laksa leaves, which I learned

the Asian brothers pick fresh from their grocery where the place grows like weeds around Mama Mary! Every component of the laksa is homemade, from the noodles to the fish cake. No wonder it tasted so good.

Kapi Tiam even learns over-abundance of your lumpia, which come so fresh. It has lots of ground pork, but overall, it's very healthy. The vegetables are cooked very briefly, leaving you with a hefty dosage fiber. Also, the lumpia wrapper is not typical flour, with lots of chunky fruit-impregnated rolls. It is served with garlic cream and sweet lumpia sauce. If you wish to start eating healthy, this lumpia is a great first dish to start.

Close to 10 years after I first visited, Mari Tiam's fresh prawn dumpling, chefs Paeng and Gab have not stopped amazing us with their innovative cuisine and there are perennial renditions of well-loved, old-time favorites. This is perhaps why the Sison brothers have managed to stay in business for so many years, when most bring their gloves—at their soaking mitts, in this case.

(Kapi Tiam is at 7329678/ 7227946. They deliver!)

Remember the tofu supplier I wrote about many issues ago. Or, since I have forgotten, I found his name, and he still makes tofu like he used to. My personal favorites are his almond and coffee. Call Peter for orders 917 8686007. He delivers, too.

My book 'Kitchen Rescue 2: The Encore—My Cuisine to Eating, Cooking and Living' is now available at all leading bookstores at call 6474744. E-mail the author: reggies@inquirer.com.ph

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Designed by the award-giants and two-time winner of the International Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen Design Contest Architect Ed Cortes, the spectacular 175 square-meter showroom showcases every style and configuration available for both brands. On display are 11 units of Sub-Zero appliances and 28 units of Wolf appliances as well as various accessories.

Whatever cuisine you have for your home kitchen, top of the line refrigerators from Sub-Zero and professional performance from Wolf will fit to beautifully flesh out of the Ground floor of the Rockwell Tower, The Headhouse at Greenbelt. Experience Grand, Rockwell City Center direct & only at Nasa World Makati, Showroom hours are Mon – Sat, 10am – 6pm, Sun, 11am – 7pm. You may also reach us at (632) 830 3888 or through our website at www.subzero-wolf.com or www.nasaglobal.com.ph

Healthy bread recipes

IT'S A COMMON misconception that eating overnight is all about getting rid of carbs, skipping meals, and giving up on many favorite foods deemed fattening and unhealthy.

"Eat every three to four hours, hungry or not. That's my number one rule," says Nadine Tongco, "Pinoy Biggest Loser" resident nutritionist, weight-loss expert and Philippine Olympics Committee sports nutritionist.

Another mistake fun many people trying to lose weight is eliminating essential nutrients like carbohydrates.

Tongco says there are many good sources of carbohydrates, such as bread. She recommends Weber bread.

Tongco shared two recipes using healthy Weber bread products.

NADINE Tongco, weight-loss expert, with "Biggest Loser" contestant Joy Ty

Chicken Salad 'Bread-wrap'

(With Claude Mayo')
3 slices Weber Weight Control Bread
½ c. broiled boneless, skinless chicken breast fillet
½ c finely diced celery
½ c finely diced carrots
4 tbsp fresh mango
½ c salad greens
Use broiled chicken breast. Put fillets in oven proof dish, season with salt and pepper. Roast in oven for about 15 minutes @ 200°C. Cool and cut fillets on two small cubes. For Chili-mayo: Mix equal parts mayo and cauliflower puree (use ½ c mayo and ½ c cauliflower puree). For cauliflower puree: Steam cauliflower florets until tender. Process until smooth in food processor. For bread-wrap: Roll 1 slice of bread with a rolling pin. Begin at one edge and press the rolling pin down onto the bread, moving it across in increments. Roll gradually to each direction to flatten bread. Use a knife to trim crust/edges. Repeat with the other slices. Set aside. For Chicken Salad: Toss together chicken, celery, carrots and cauliflower mayo.

Assemble the wrap by spooning a third of chicken salad and salad greens in the center of a bread wrap. Fold the right side just past the middle. Do the same with the left. Serve.

Crab Salad 'Bread-Tarts'

(With Claude Mayo')
3 slices Weber Sugar Free wheat bread
3 ounces imitation crab or 'Kani' flaked
2 tbsp celery, diced
½ c ripe mango, diced
3 tsp green onions, chopped
½ tbsp mint leaves, shredded
½ tbsp basil, sliced
3/4 c egg whites
Make claude-mayo and cauliflower puree (check above procedures). Re-crab salad: Toss together crab sticks, crab meats, celery, mango, green onions and mint leaves. For bread-tart shells: Flatten bread with a rolling pin. Begin at one edge and press rolling pin down onto the bread, moving it across in increments. Roll gradually to each direction. Trim crust/edges. Press in to mini-tart moulds brushed with egg whites for crust-shape of tart shells. Toast in an oven, toaster for 3 minutes on high. Cool and set aside.

Spoon crab salad into the toasted bread tart shells. Serve.

EQ Diapers forges partnership with McDonald's

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie Q. Velarde

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Nora, Brillante shooting in Tawi-Tawi

THE COUNTRY'S superstar Nora Aunor has entered shooting Cannes-winning director Brillante Mendoza's latest film, "The Missing," in Mindanao. She was reportedly mobbed by fans, nearly causing the military escort and villagers, in Tawi-Tawi. Among her co-stars are Bembol Roco, Lou Veloso and Mercedes Cabral in this drama about the seafaring Badjao and other tribes in the South. — Rayvani San Diego Al.

DID YOU KNOW...

New Filipino film fest hunts for local talents

Sine Pinoy will hold workshops all over the country and give grants for 12 feature films

By Rayvani San Diego Jr.

A NEW FILM festival named Sine Pinoy promises to discover fresh talents in front and behind the camera from all over the country.

The event proposes to accomplish this difficult task through a series of workshops to be held in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, from April to May.

Erik Santiago, the festival director, explained that the workshops cover acting, singing and dancing, along with film and television production and pitching. He said that students from ages 6 to 60 are welcome.

Five rounds of workshops will be held in Mindanao—in General Santos and in Davao City starting on April 23.

Next stop is the Visayas—Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Tacloban and Tagbilaran, beginning on May 1.

Finishing off the national workshops is the Luzon leg—Metro Manila, Baguio and Legazpi, commencing on May 9.

Organizers are eyeing salient key cities such as Puerto Princesa and Cagayan de Oro.

ONE OF the festival's workshop mentors, Rony Cabrera, has won awards and made it to the cast of "Bourne Legacy."

Sikat Pinoy resource speaker Nanding Josef is a theater-film veteran and head of the CCP's Tanghalang Pilipino.

Workshop mentors

Santiago, together with marketing group Elesha, and Rivoon Arts Productions, have chosen the following mentors: Tanghalang Pilipino's Nanding Josef and this year's Cinema One best actor Rony Cabreza (who also appeared in the Hollywood film "The Bourne Legacy")—along with actors Joseph Erich Antonio, Bernalk Bernardo, Jessi Angara, Jonathan Sadicaan, Abner Bellen Jr., Steve Sapayan, Carlos Hamilton, Christian Bautista, Hadrian Magsino and Ms. Steven Jacinto.

Santiago said that organizers are coordinating closely with local government units in conducting the workshops.

"Some LGUs and private businesses are sponsoring scholars to the workshops," he related.

At the end of each workshop, the students will produce a short film. The best screenplay (written by participants from each city) will be made into feature films.

"We encourage filmmakers to tap local talents, specifically graduates of the workshops in their cities, to form their unit and crew," said Santiago.

Hope as theme

"The theme centers on hope, and the films should be child-friendly," he added.

The festival, scheduled in September, will feature 12 films from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Each film will receive a P1-million grant.

Sine Pinoy is currently in talks with officers of different malls for the screening of the 12 entries—which will vie for awards like best film, director, actor, actress, screenplay, cinematography and editing.

"We hope to have simultaneous screenings all over the country," said Santiago. "We also plan to show the films in different schools and universities nationwide."

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Song changes life of homeless man

Singing 'A Whole New World' with the audience has its amazing moments

BACK STORY

Lea Salonga

IN NOVEMBER 2005, at the end of my Carnegie Hall debut show, I asked the audience if there was anyone who wanted to be my Aladdin and sing "A Whole New World" with me.

Daniel Bathe, a young student at Ateneo (American Music and Dramatic Academy) quickly raised his hand. I asked him to come up on stage.

The experiment was a success. The audience's reaction was amazing. Daniel was a pretty good singer and the resulting finale was a tremendous success. Since then, asking someone to sing as my Aladdin at the end of the show has become a trademark of my solo concerts.

Brave souls

Over the years, people from all walks of life have joined me in singing "A Whole New World." The brave souls come up mostly by themselves, but there have been a few times when, more than one person has volunteered.

It's a fun challenge (keeping up what is meant to be a duet into a song sung by four or five people.

I remember once in Bangkok, four young men—three Filipino and one Thai—ran down the aisles toward the stage! It took me by surprise, but it was sweet to have four Aladdins up there with me.

In 2009, at a non-night event in Manila, we tweaked the formula and chose instead the two young men who would sing with me: Christopher Ta, who sang on the first night, and Rocky Chrisfopher Aquino, who sang the following night. They were chosen from videotaped auditions, and they were both wonderful!

In the Bacolod leg of that concert, a young Ernesto Rillon volunteered (he was not on stage by his friends, but he ended up not singing).

In Las Vegas, a guy named Rillon came up, and was so visibly nervous that my husband, who was sitting at the back of the theater, could see the lyrics [illegible]

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Song changes...

Photos page 8

NEWPORT
CINEMAS

SECTOR 7
9:00am, 11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm

BATTLESHIP
9:45pm, 12:00mn

BATTLESHIP in 3D
9:15am, 12:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm, 12:30mn

BATTLESHIP
9:00am, 11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 8:10pm, 10:50pm

THE LUCKY ONE
9:15am, 11:35am, 2:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm, 12:25mn

SHANG
CINEPLEX

1 THE LUCKY ONE
PG - 13
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35

2 BATTLESHIP
PG - 13
10:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30

3 THE HUNGER GAMES
PG - 13
1:00, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30

4 BEIJING
PG - 13
1:00, 3:50, 6:05, 8:30

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R - 16
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BATTLESHIP (In 3D) – PG13

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PROMENADE

GOT FRIDAYS
STARRING

Cliff Hanmer and Lea Salonga at the Phil. Diamond Hall concert in 2008

sheet shaking in Mike's hands!

In Hong Kong, a goodolier from the Nordson Hotel in Illinois (Chris Vaughn) and a Disneyland performer (Ariel Russell) sang with me. But the biggest surprise in Hong Kong came when a young man called Wong Chu Lam came on stage.

Imagine that

It was a matinee performance with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and a voice from the balcony said he wanted to sing. I called him in some down. It didn't take him long to reach the stage.

I asked his name, and was startled when the entire audience started booing. I had no idea who Wong Chu Lam was, so I was a wee puzzled. His voice was lovely though, and he was very handsome, and I thought that was that. But after the song, when he went down the stage, a lady from the audience shouted, "He's a huge star here!"

To put that in perspective, imagine you're on stage asking for a duet partner and John Lloyd Cruz hops up, runs toward you and leaps onto the stage, ignoring the mats.

In fourth, only a few nights ago, an ebullient actor named Clinton, who said he had played Jafar in a Chinese theater production of "Aladdin," came up to sing. No other man had ever shown such enthusiasm before.

But as humorous as the stories generally are, there was one not long ago that was poignant and really touched me.

Tugging at heartstrings

It was the end of my concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall some time back, and a young man by the name of Cliff Plummer had come up to sing with me. Last week-end, he came back up and volunteered again. Before we started to sing however, he asked to share his story with the audience.

During that Disney Hall show, he said he was actually homeless, and a young lady who would later become his roommate had provided him with the means to see the concert. Since that show, his life had moved completely forward.

He mentioned that that date served as an inspiration for him to change his life. He got his act together, and now teaches middle school in Southern California. And he was no longer homeless. He also informed us that he had overcome the predicament of "bipolar" there.

His story touched everyone in the audience. I was so moved that I didn't have very much to say the rest of the evening (and I'm normally hardly at a loss for words).

I'm sure there will be many more Al-addins to sing with, and I'm hoping there will be more interesting stories to tell. Until then, remembering these emotions will keep a smile on my face.

Break legs

To the cast and crew of 'Schuft and Kyrie' on your last weekend, have a fantastic end to the run! Congratulations to you all, most especially to director Wendoa Lauchengco-Yeh, on the glowing reviews and standing ovations. Bravo!

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BATTLESHIP 2D
WRATH OF THE TITANS
MY IDIOTIC EX
BORDER GAMES
BATTLESHIP
THE LUCKY ONE
BORDER 2
SECTOR 7

ALI MALL

BATTLESHIP
WRATH OF THE TITANS
BORDER 2
THE LUCKY ONE

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Greyson's chance

From page B4

I wrote "Moving Outside the Lines" with a group of songwriters. My creative contributions in the song were very considerable; in fact, they are on every thing I wrote on.

Things happened very fast from your "Pagsasama" video on YouTube to signproarding on "Kapuso" to your signing a record deal. How does it all make sense to you now?

I have been writing and performing my music for two years now; it has become a normal life. I love what I get to do! Songwriting is the most important thing to me.

Did you really want to become a professional music artist?

I think if I didn't want to become an artist I wouldn't be doing it. I have always wanted to be a performer and a songwriter.

Whose idea was it to feature Chanice in the words of "Painting Outside the Lines"?

It was my and my manager's idea. I love Chanice, she is so talented.

You and Chanice were both discovered on YouTube. Do you get to watch other videos of interesting but unknown talents?

I am always looking for videos on YouTube of kids doing the same thing that I did. I love seeing young talent getting their chance to shine in the world.

How do you want to be recognized as an artist in the next few years?

I want to be recognized as a musician. Many people tend to look at young artists as just "Eigenbrands." My goal is to show people that I am a real musician.

You obviously love Lady Gaga. Which other musicians/groups inspire you and why?

Many different artists and music genres inspire me. I love rock, electronic, rap, pop, and I really am starting to love the blues lately—it makes me want to party! One artist I am very inspired by right now is Ed Sheeran. His album sounds great.

How hectic is your schedule these days, and are you still in school?

My schedule is planned to the minute! But yes, I still do school. I do all my studies online and with my tutor.

What's the best part of being in the music scene at such a young age?

I think the best thing at that I am really young to be in this. I see myself in there; they inspire me to write more for them.

For details on the concert, log onto http://book.com/willmoline and on Twitter.com/willmoline.

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UNBELIEVABLE BUT TRUE!
THE HUNGER GAMES
STILL THE #1 MOVIE AFTER
4 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

San Vibar Cuna, April 18, 2012

THIS WEEKEND audiences AGAIN made 'The Hunger Games' the number one movie in America. Now on its fourth week at number one and making history as the only film to achieve this box office phenomenon without the help of 3D gimmicks.

'The Lionsgate pic held up incredibly well dropping only 20% in an estimated $21.3M.

"...for this film it's not enough to see this film once. They come back to watch the film again and again. The decline was at its smallest yet, and especially impressive since it was coming off of the Easter Holiday session. 'Hunger Games' has now amassed a stunning $337.1M in only 24 days of release in the U.S.", says Lionsgate Marketing Executive Brent Jurk.

The fabulous sensation is now on course to outgross every 'Harry Potter' and 'Twilight' film in North America.

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Greyson's chance at fame happened in the blink of an eye

YouTube discovery performs April 22 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum

By Pachalo Concepcion

GREYSON Chance may have been thrust into the limelight in the blink of an eye, but there's good reason to believe that he's the real deal.

It took only one video of the Texas-born Chance playing the piano and singing Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" on YouTube for TV host Ellen DeGeneres to make her move. After seeing the video, she invited Chance to perform on her show, and then signed him two weeks later in the first artist on her newly formed record label, eleven:eleven.

Proof that Chance is not merely hype can be found on his debut album, "Hold On 'Til the Night," to which he contributes six of the 10 tracks. A video of the album's first single, "Waiting Outside the Lines," can also be viewed on YouTube.

The buzzwave had us e-mail chat with the budding 14-year-old singer-songwriter before his concert on Sunday, April 22, at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

You've been promoting your debut album in Asia. What is it like to perform in foreign countries?

It is a lot of fun to have the chance to venture out to a foreign country and meet the fans and get to experience different cultures. I always enjoy it when I travel outside the U.S. and I love all of my ticket fans!

You're credited in the album as cowriter of several tracks, including "Waiting Outside the Lines." What was your actual contribution in these songs?

CONTINUED TO

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: TITANIC (3D)/WRATH OF THE TITANS
2: ANONYMOUS
3: THE LUCKY ONE
4: SECTOR 7
5: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
6: BATTLESHIP (2D)
7: BATTLESHIP

GREENBELT 3
1: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
2: BATTLESHIP
3: BATTLESHIP (2D)

GREENBELT 5
1: THE LUCKY ONE
2: BATTLESHIP (2D)
3: WRATH OF THE TITANS
4: ANONYMOUS
5: BATTLESHIP

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE LUCKY ONE
2: BATTLESHIP (2D)
3: TITANIC (3D)/WRATH OF THE TITANS
4: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
5: BATTLESHIP

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: BATTLESHIP (3D)
2: WRATH OF THE TITANS
3: TITANIC (3D)/THE HUNGER GAMES
4: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY

MARQUEE
1: THE LUCKY ONE
2: TITANIC (3D)/WRATH OF THE TITANS
3: BATTLESHIP
4: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY

MARKET! MARKET!
1: BATTLESHIP (3D)
2: WRATH OF THE TITANS
3: SECTOR 7
4: TITANIC (3D)/WRATH OF THE TITANS
5: THE LUCKY ONE
6: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
7: THE HUNGER GAMES

TRINOMA
1: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
2: THE HUNGER GAMES
3: ANONYMOUS (3D)
4: BATTLESHIP (2D)
5: SECTOR 7
6: WRATH OF THE TITANS
7: BATTLESHIP

ABREEZA
1: TITANIC (3D)/WRATH OF THE TITANS
2: BATTLESHIP (3D)
3: MORON 5 & THE HUNGER GAMES
4: THE LUCKY ONE

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 925-05-57 • 925-80-74

Shellfish Bulletin No. 10
Series of 2012
17 April 2012

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfishes collected at Dumanquilas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur, Murcielagan Bay in Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental, Malimpic Bay in Zamboanga, Sibuguey coastal waters (Mariahican, Limog, Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Orani, Abucay and Samal) are still positive for paralytic shellfish poison that is beyond the regulatory limit.

All types of shellfish and finfish up or planning gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to be FREE from toxins and have coastal waters of Cuenca, Lian, Nasugbu, Tuy, Balayan, Calatagan, Batangas City, Mabini, Tingloy, Laurel, Agoncillo, Talisay, Taal, Lemery, San Nicolas, Balete, Santa Teresita, Alitagtag, Cuenca, Bauan, San Pascual, Mataasnakahoy, Lipa City, Malvar, Tanauan City, Santo Tomas, Talisay

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS (BEI) ON THE CASTING AND COUNTING OF VOTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUNE 30, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

BELLANTES, Ernesto J. A. — Chairman
GARCIA, Rey E. — Commissioner
GUIA, Lucenito N. — Commissioner
VILLAGO, Armando C. — Commissioner
YUSOPH, Ellen R. — Commissioner
DE, Christian Robert S. — Commissioner
LAUDIANG, Augusto C. — Commissioner

Promulgated: April 17, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 9401

The Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Act No. 8436 and 10590, the Omnibus Election Code and other laws not inconsistherewith, RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVED to promulgate the following General Instructions for the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) on the Casting and Counting of Votes in connection with the June 30, 2025 Special Election for Member, House of Representatives, 5th Congressional District of the Province of Misamis Occidental.

Section 1. Board of Election Inspectors. There shall be a Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) created for the 100% Automated Election System (AES) in every polling place, and a Provincial Board of Canvassers for the Province of Misamis Occidental.

Section 2. Composition and Number. The composition of the Board of Election Inspectors and the number of members per polling place shall be those provided in Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9369, as amended, and other pertinent laws and issuances.

I
BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

Section 3. Election Officers of the Board of Election Inspectors. The Board of Election Inspectors shall be composed of the Chairman, Member 1, and Member 2, who shall perform the duties and responsibilities as provided by law, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

With respect to the Chairman of the Board, the Commission shall appoint an additional Member to the Board who shall be designated as the Member of Records, the duty of such Member of the Board shall be to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Board and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission. Such Member of the Board shall be a public school teacher, if available in the polling place, and the designation and appointment of the Member of Records shall be made by the Commission at least five (5) days before the election.

Section 4. Qualifications of Members of the BEI. No person shall be appointed as member of the Board of Election Inspectors unless he/she:

a. is a registered voter in the municipality or city where he/she will perform his/her duties;
b. is able to read and write;
c. is a resident of the polling place where he/she will perform his/her duties;
d. has not been a candidate for any elective office in the May 2025 National, Local or Barangay elections;
e. is not related within the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity or affinity to any candidate running in the May 2025 National, Local or Barangay elections;
f. is not a member of any political party or any election watcher thereof; and
g. has not been convicted by final judgment of any election offense.

Section 5. Disqualifications of Members of the BEI. The following persons are disqualified from being appointed as members of the Board of Election Inspectors:

a. Any elective official and his/her spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild, whether by consanguinity or affinity;
b. Any person who is related within the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity or affinity to any candidate for any elective office in the May 2025 National, Local or Barangay elections;
c. Any person who is a candidate for any elective office in the May 2025 National, Local or Barangay elections;
d. Any person who is a member of any political party or any election watcher thereof;
e. Any person who has been convicted by final judgment of any election offense;
f. Any person who has been removed from office as a result of an administrative case;
g. Any person who has been dismissed from the service due to an administrative case;
h. Any person who is not a registered voter in the polling place where he/she will perform his/her duties;
i. Any person who is not able to read and write;
j. Any person who is a relative within the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity or affinity of any member of the Board of Election Inspectors; and
k. Any person who is a resident of a barangay outside the polling place where he/she will perform his/her duties.

Section 6. Oath of Office. The Chairman, Member 1, and Member 2 of the Board of Election Inspectors shall, before entering upon the performance of their duties, take an oath of office in substantially the following form:

"I, _____, Filipino citizen, of legal age, a resident of _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities; that I will perform my duties as Chairman, Member 1, or Member 2 of the Board of Election Inspectors to the best of my ability; that I will not commit any violation of the election laws; that I will not allow any violation of the election laws to be committed in my presence; that I will not receive any gift, favor or consideration for the performance of my duties; that I will not accept any bribe; that I will not commit any act of corruption; that I will not allow any act of corruption to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of intimidation, violence or terrorism; that I will not allow any act of intimidation, violence or terrorism to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of fraud; that I will not allow any act of fraud to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-buying; that I will not allow any act of vote-buying to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-selling; that I will not allow any act of vote-selling to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-counting; that I will not allow any act of vote-counting to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-tallying; that I will not allow any act of vote-tallying to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-canvassing; that I will not allow any act of vote-canvassing to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-proclamation; that I will not allow any act of vote-proclamation to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-transmission; that I will not allow any act of vote-transmission to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-reception; that I will not allow any act of vote-reception to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-custody; that I will not allow any act of vote-custody to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-safekeeping; that I will not allow any act of vote-safekeeping to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-disposition; that I will not allow any act of vote-disposition to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-destruction; that I will not allow any act of vote-destruction to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-alteration; that I will not allow any act of vote-alteration to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-falsification; that I will not allow any act of vote-falsification to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-forgery; that I will not allow any act of vote-forgery to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-impersonation; that I will not allow any act of vote-impersonation to be committed in my presence; that I will not commit any act of vote-substitution; that I will not allow any act of vote-substitution

1	Official Ballots		These are also • Cost Estimate Sheets
2	Election Returns (Local)		Set 3 Copies
3-4	Lists, Book & Voters		
5	Certificates of Candidacy (Local Offices)		Same for Local Offices
6	Official Forms	10	Various
7	Certificates of Votes	10	Various
8	Certificate of Canvass (Municipal / City / Provincial Boards of Canvassers)	10	Various
9-10, 11-12, 13	Oath of Office and Election Returns Copy for the Election Officer Copy for the Board of Canvassers (Municipal / City) Copy for the Board of Canvassers (Provincial) Copy for the Provincial Treasurer (Provincial Boards of Canvassers Only)	10	Various

SETTING UP OF THE VOTING AND COUNTING AREAS

14	Voting Booths		Various
15	Ballot Boxes		
16	Indelible Ink (Voters Office Ballots)		
17-18	Voters' Record for Indelible Office Ballots and Election Returns		
19-20			

CONDUCT OF VOTING AND COUNTING

21, 22, 23, 24	The Election Officers and Voting Procedures		Use of Forms
25, 26, 27, 28, 29	The Use of Indelible Ink		Use of Forms

AFTER VOTING

30-31	Sealing and Transmittal of Certificates of Votes and Election Returns	10	Various
32-33	Sealing and Transmittal of Certificates of Canvass	10	Various
34	Custody of Election Returns		
35	Certificates of Votes	10	Various
36	Certificates of Canvass	10	Various
37	Custody of Election Returns		Same Form
38	Custody of Certificates of Votes		Same Form
39	Certificates of Canvass		Same Form
40	Custody of Election Returns		Same Form
41	Certificates of Votes		Same Form
42	Certificates of Canvass		Same Form
43	Custody of Election Returns		Same Form
44	Certificates of Votes		Same Form
45	Certificates of Canvass		Same Form

b. Those that do not require printing:

1. Certificate of Oath of Office (Municipal / City Boards of Canvassers) (Annex A) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
2. Certificate of Oath of Office (Provincial Boards of Canvassers) (Annex B) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Provincial) before the election;
3. Certificate of Oath of Office (Election Officers) (Annex C) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
4. Certificate of Oath of Office (Watchers) (Annex D) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
5. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate Voters) (Annex E) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
6. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex F) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
7. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex G) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
8. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex H) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
9. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex I) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
10. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex J) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
11. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex K) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
12. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex L) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
13. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex M) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
14. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex N) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
15. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex O) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
16. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex P) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
17. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex Q) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
18. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex R) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
19. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex S) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
20. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex T) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
21. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex U) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
22. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex V) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
23. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex W) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
24. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex X) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
25. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex Y) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
26. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex Z) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
27. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex AA) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
28. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex AB) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
29. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex AC) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
30. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex AD) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
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58. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BF) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
59. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BG) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
60. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BH) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
61. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BI) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
62. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BJ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
63. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BK) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
64. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BL) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
65. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BM) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
66. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BN) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
67. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BO) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
68. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BP) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
69. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BQ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
70. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BR) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
71. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BS) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
72. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BT) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
73. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BU) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
74. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BV) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
75. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BW) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
76. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BX) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
77. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BY) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
78. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex BZ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
79. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CA) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
80. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CB) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
81. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CC) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
82. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CD) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
83. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CE) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
84. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CF) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
85. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CG) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
86. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CH) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
87. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CI) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
88. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CJ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
89. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CK) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
90. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CL) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
91. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CM) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
92. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CN) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
93. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CO) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
94. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CP) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
95. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CQ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
96. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CR) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
97. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CS) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
98. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CT) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
99. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CU) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
100. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CV) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
101. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CW) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
102. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CX) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
103. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CY) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
104. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex CZ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
105. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DA) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
106. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DB) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
107. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DC) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
108. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DD) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
109. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DE) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
110. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DF) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
111. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DG) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
112. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DH) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
113. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DI) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
114. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DJ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
115. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DK) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
116. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DL) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
117. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DM) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
118. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DN) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
119. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DO) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
120. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DP) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
121. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DQ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
122. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DR) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
123. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DS) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
124. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DT) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
125. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DU) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
126. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DV) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
127. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DW) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
128. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DX) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
129. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DY) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
130. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex DZ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
131. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EA) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
132. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EB) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
133. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EC) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
134. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex ED) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
135. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EE) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
136. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EF) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
137. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EG) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
138. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EH) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
139. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EI) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
140. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EJ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
141. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EK) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
142. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EL) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
143. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EM) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
144. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EN) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
145. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EO) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
146. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EP) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
147. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EQ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
148. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex ER) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
149. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex ES) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
150. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex ET) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
151. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EU) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
152. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EV) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
153. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EW) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
154. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EX) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
155. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EY) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
156. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex EZ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
157. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FA) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
158. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FB) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
159. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FC) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
160. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FD) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
161. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FE) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
162. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FF) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
163. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FG) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
164. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FH) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
165. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FI) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
166. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FJ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
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168. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FL) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
169. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FM) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
170. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FN) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
171. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FO) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
172. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FP) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
173. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FQ) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
174. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FR) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
175. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FS) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
176. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FT) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
177. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FU) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
178. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FV) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
179. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FW) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
180. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FX) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
181. Certificate of Oath of Office (Voters Assisting Illiterate and Physically Disabled Voters) (Annex FY) – prepared by the Law Department and furnished to the Boards of Canvassers (Municipal / City) before the election;
182. Certificate of Oath of Office

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. 03
DOLE-RO3 Building, San Fernando St.,
Manila, 1000 Philippines

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employer/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/s to be Employed	Position
VILLA ATLAS CORPORATION G/F Bldg. 1 Villa Atlas Complex Sr. Barbara Village, Makati City	Dadelahan Noel Jayasena	President and Chief Executive Officer
HONDA SEMICONDUCTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Lot-2-B Cavite Export Processing Zone, Rosario Cavite Special Economic Zone, Rosario, Cavite	Kondo Shuhei Japanese	Vice President and Treasurer
HETSCOOTERS ASIA, INC. Unit 2102 Inter Corporate Center, 107 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Stewart Jonathan Shuter Israeli French	President Director
YUSHOKAN BAR AND RESTAURANT Dolgan Center, Pasay, Lobby Manila Ave., Pasay City	Shang Hsun Shen Taiwanese	General Manager
KOREX ENTERPRISES 108-A Bi-Hwa St. Greenmeadows Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal	Chung Hwan Lee Korean	Operations Engineer
KOREX ENTERPRISES 108-A Bi-Hwa St. Greenmeadows Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal	Kwang Hwan Ko Korean	Secretary
LONGKHALEE CORPORATION Lucky Bldg., 2335 South Ave., Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Makati City	Kwon Seokmin Korean	Training Manager
LONGKHALEE CORPORATION Lucky Bldg., 2335 South Ave., Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Makati City	Shin Jaeyoung Korean	General Manager
INTERNAPHILL INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISES, INC. -PHILIPPINE BRANCH G/F Rockwell Business Center, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Rodrigo Limsuchat Thai	Treasurer, Executive Vice President
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Building 8, 8/F Cybergate Office, Cybergate Plaza, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines	Brian Stephen Crawford Canadian	Director
CONSULTANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS (PHILS.), INC. Mezzanine Floor, Alexandra House, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines	Raj Gopalrao Naik Indian	Sr. Executive - Finance
GLOBAL LOGIS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION L-14 LIIP Diezmo Crescent, Dr. Pilapil, Cabuyao City, Barangay Pila	Hong Hsun Sun Chinese	Manufacturer
ABSS PEOPLESUPPORT, INC. Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City	Krishna Mandal Indian	Staff Information Systems
POLY METALWORKS CORP. Lot 2-C, Gulfwind Road, PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate, Cebu	Su Chen Chinese	Assistant Finance Manager
SAN MIGUEL BEER CORPORATION No. 100 Philippine Trade Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines	Kuah Pauline Malaysian Australian	Research Manager Marketing Manager
LOGICA (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F One World Square, Mckinley Rd., Taguig City	Cecilia Reagan Norwegian	Service Desk Analyst
LOGICA (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F One World Square, Mckinley Rd., Taguig City	Pia Ma Fung Erikson Swedish	Service Desk Analyst
LOGICA (PHILIPPINES), INC. 2/F One World Square, Mckinley Rd., Taguig City	Stefan Tommy Ekenderrus Swedish	HR Analyst - Audiovisual
BOSECON PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. 2/F Rich Hayes St., Brgy. Ubo Bagumbayan, San Juan City	Shuangyu Cheng Chinese	Vice Secretary Manager
BOSECON PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. 2/F Rich Hayes St., Brgy. Ubo Bagumbayan, San Juan City	Weiwei Xu Chinese	Vice Finance Manager
BOSECON PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. 2/F Rich Hayes St., Brgy. Ubo Bagumbayan, San Juan City	Xuqing Cheng Chinese	Vice HR Manager
HONDA CORP. 2/F HCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tetsu Nemoto Japanese	Local Mobility Coordinator
HONDA CORP. 2/F HCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kyung Tae Sohn Korean	Software Development Lead
BOSECON PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING COMPANY, INC. 2/F Rich Hayes St., Brgy. Ubo Bagumbayan, San Juan City	Shaojun Cheng Chinese	Translator
HONDA CORP. 2/F HCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ryoko Laura Morita Japanese	Local Mobility Coordinator
ALBERMARLE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY 2/F SSS Pasay Bldg., Makati City	Mahmoud Kadi Syrian	Consultant
PROCTER & GAMBLE DISTRIBUTING (PH) (PRIVATE) 2/F KPS Ayala Ave. Office Suites, Ayala Center, Makati City	Ashraf Abou Hatab Egyptian	Treasurer & President

ANNOUNCEMENT

All employers with current PHILEXPO 2012 working documents are welcome to participate in the 2012 Job Fair and Livelihood Fair to be held on 21 May 2012 at the Bataan Provincial Capitol Grounds, Balanga City.

For inquiries or assistance, you may call 1-800-1-Kapatiran, kindly get in touch with Mr. Ricardo Cruz (0917-8-CRUZ-10) or Ms. Marilyn Tolentino (0920-9-MARILYN), or you may contact them at the following telephone numbers: 2233-3001 and 2233-3004, where they are also text (0920-9-CRUZ-10) capable.

If you have any information/ objections in the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN S. MACHACON
Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
Department of Justice
Manila

INVITATION TO BI-BID

The Department of Justice (DOJ), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting interested parties to submit the following project:

Name of Project	Purchase of Brand-New Motor Vehicle
Location	Department of Justice
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 1,600,000.00
Specification/Description	Ultra Diesel (M-T/A/C Body Acrylic
Delivery Period	120 Calendar days

The prospective bidder must have an experience of having completed, within a period of two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, at least one (1) contract that is similar in the contract to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the NSO consumer price indices, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening will be the Preliminary Examination of bids and shall not discriminate "Lowest Bid" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

The Bidding will be conducted through Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-bid, Preliminary Scrutiny, Prevailing Conditions, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 dated 22 July 2003.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Issuance of Bidding Documents	August 20 to 30 Sep. 2011
Pre-Bid Conference	August 30, 2011
Opening of Bids	30 May 2012
Post-Qualification	30 May 2012
Post-Qualification	30 May 2012
Notice of Award	30 May 2012

Bid Documents and additional information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, Office of Director for Administrative Service, 4th Floor, DOJ Annex Building, DOJ Compound, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.

All bids to be submitted shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, Room 512, 5th Floor DOJ Main Building, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. All prospective bidders shall be assigned a pre-numbered bid form for the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (1,000.00).

The Department of Justice reserves the right, in part or in whole, to reject any and/or all bids and accepts the offer that is most advantageous to the government and also reserves the right to waive any minor deficiencies or non-conformity in the bid in the interest of the DOJ.

30 April 2012

BENJAMIN S. MARAVILLA
Chief State Counsel
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Program Support Office
2-4th Avenue Bldg., Angliongto Sr. Ave., Lanang, Davao City

April 19, 2012

NOTICE OF HIRING
FOR
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) SPECIALIST

The Mindanao Rural Development Program is urgently looking for interested applicants to fill up the newly created position of O&M SPECIALIST.

This position will be based at the Program Support Office at Atty. Angliongto Avenue, Davao City and his/her service is required, to commence on May 15, 2012.

For information on scope and responsibilities, required output, qualification and reporting, please log on to www.dmrdp.net

Only applications received on or before May 4, 2012 will be considered. Short-listed applicants will be contacted for the schedule of written examination and interview.

Please submit application letter with CV in duly and comprehensive IN write address below or send to email: mrdp_pso@yahoo.com.

LEAH FE A. RAMOS, Program Director
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - APO
Program Support Office
2nd Flr., Alvarez Building, Monsir Road, Lanang, Davao City
Tel. No.: (082) 291-0668
Fax No.: (082) 291-0665
E-mail: mrdp_pso@yahoo.com

What Every Family Business Must Know

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST practices is holding a special one-and-a-half day seminar entitled "Best Practices in Family Business Governance & Crafting Family Constitutions" scheduled on May 9 to 10, Tuesday, 8:00 AM to 5 PM, 21st Floor of the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The most successful family businesses that lasted for generations have the right family governance system and a solid family constitution. To run the family business successfully, it is important to first manage all family business stakeholders effectively. Having the right family governance frame- work is the answer. It's been proven world- wide that most family owned companies who have instituted the right family governance system are stronger and more united as a family in business, better in resolving conflicts, more competitive compared to others, are able to sustain their family businesses, have better and better quality of decisions and more attractive with their board and stakeholders.

Resolving conflicts and uniting family members is commonly a major issue. The most effective solution to this is having a family constitution. When crafted properly, it's a powerful tool to resolve all issues among family business members. It is the bible that everyone needs to refer to when making decisions. Make sure your family has one. It should be the first one that every family business should put in place when starting an enterprise. Embodied in this document should include what are important for the family such as values that the family and business must uphold, the roles and responsibilities of owners, directors, and stakeholders and the rules that all must follow. In this program, we will teach you all of these including how to create family councils, address family assemblies and meetings, and resolve business issues among family members effectively.

Those who have built family business empires such as the Ford, Rockefellers, Walton of Walmart, and many others have it. Whether you are the founder, business owner, director, family business advisor, and other non-executive and generation shareholders, or non-management extended relative stakeholder, this special seminar workshop will surely set you on the right course towards a long-lasting business and a harmonious relationship among stakeholders. This best practices educational program is highly recommended for all members of the family. Interested participants are encouraged to avail of the early bird and group discounts. This is a limited-seats-only event and pre- registration is required. For more details, visit www.cgbp.org. You may also contact CGBP at (02) 596-9969 /89 (Manila); (032) 512-3106 /07 (Cebu) and (049) 423-0148 or email program@cgbp.org and facebook at connect@cgbp.org.

This 1.5 days special program will feature CGBP Family Business Center program director, Ricardo Rose Manzano, MBA. He is the founder of the Family Business Governance Center, John Gokongwei School of Manage- ment of the Ateneo de Manila University where he taught for 13 years and was its director until September 2008. He has also taught Family Business Management in the Thammasat State University and has been a resource person in Family Business seminars and regular guest speaker in the family business classes in Santo Tomas University, University of San Carlos, Cebu and Silliman University of the Pacific, Dumaguete. As an authority in family business, he will also share his extensive research, knowledge, expertise, experiences and lessons learned with his extensive experience in crafting family constitutions of successful family business firms. His passion is in helping family businesses succeed & advocating right practices in family business governance.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JUVELYN PANTALEON BALABAD
a.k.a. Catherine Aquino

The above-mentioned person has a standing Warrant of Arrest issued to her by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 19, Dipolog City or its order dated September 24, 2010.

Any information about her and her whereabouts can be relayed at 09068447588 or 09207130822.

(RTC, Branch 19, Dipolog City)

Road Board targets more 'green' streetlamps, footbridges in 2012

THE ROAD BOARD is installing LED streetlamps and setting up more pedestrian footbridges throughout Metro Manila this year as part of its mandate to modernize all national roads to international standards.

The Road Board has identified Susan Blvd., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon Ave. and EDSA for the installation of LED streetlamps. It is also completing the required number of pedestrian footbridges along Susan Road in Fairmesa City, as well as along Commonwealth Ave. in Quezon City and set to construct footbridges in Cavite, Laguna and along Susan Blvd.

The Road Board was created in 2008 to manage the use of the Motor Vehicle User's Charge (MVUC) collected by the Land Transportation Office from all vehicle owners as part of their annual vehicle registrations. The MVUC is to be used for the "adequate maintenance of the national and provincial roads so as to ensure satisfactory service to road users, economic road transport operations, and the preservation of road assets."

The reforms initiated by the DPWH under the able leadership of Secretary Singson such as transparency in procurement, simplification of bidding requirements, modernization of civil society organizations, the creation of such "Bantay Lansangan", as well as the setting up of the DPWH call center are synchronized with the Road Board's functions in managing the use of the MVIC.

The DPWH has implemented a Pavement Management System/Highway Development Management-4 (PMS/HDM-4), a planning tool, which prioritizes roadwork projects based on actual needs and economic considerations. The Road Board utilizes the PMS/HDM-4 in identifying priority projects. The DPWH has an ongoing program to complete the pavement of national arterial roads by 2014. This will cover 13,872 km of roads nationwide.

The Road Board has identified the stretch of Susan Road as its pilot project on pedestrian footbridges. A total of 11 footbridges are expected to be constructed along strategic points in the area.

Initiatives now the Road Board has come up with is changes for a lighting system for national roads that will ensure road safety and conform them to international standards. The areas for the implementation of LED streetlamps include Susan Blvd. from the NAIA Road to Isaia Cavite to Port Area, Manila; and Commonwealth Ave. from Quezon Memorial Circle to Tandang Sora. In the pipeline are plans to upgrade to LED streetlamps the stretch of Quezon Blvd. from EDSA to Welcome Rotonda, EDSA from Susan Blvd. to Magallanes, and the Coastal Road from the vicinity of roads from the airports. Also to benefit from the LED streetlamp initiative are a 2.6-kilometer stretch of Olongapo-Gapan Road from the North Luzon Expressway.

The upgrade to LED streetlamps would mean a savings for the local government units, which pay for electricity requirements of the streetlamps. Likewise, the shift to LED lamps from high pressure sodium lamps is beneficial to the environment, since the new lamps are free from mercury, which is a harmful pollutant and has less CO2 and other harmful emissions.

"The design of these lights are such that when solar technology is available, it would be adaptable for this. It is already designed to allow for the installation of solar panels as an accessory. That can be easily mounted," he says. "Eventually, what we are hoping for is that they be converted to solar-powered lights, so that we no longer have to pay for electricity."

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FORCE MAJEURE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE YEAR 2016 SEEKING APPROVAL TO RECOVER IN THE DISTRIBUTION RATES DUE TO STORM DAMAGES AND AUTHORITY TO DEFER CLAIMS UNDER THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE No. 2016-XXX MC

MISAMIS ORIENTAL I RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (MORESCO I),
Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on February 01, 2016, the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I) filed an application for the approval of its force majeure capital projects for the year 2016 arising from the damages to its distribution assets due to typhoon "Seniang" with authority to recover from them the National Electrification Administration (NEA) duly approved a proposed quarterly rate adjustment.

In the said application MORESCO I alleged, among others, the following:

1. It is an electric cooperative duly organized and existing by virtue of laws of the Republic of the Philippines, for franchising area includes the city, municipalities and a city in the Province of Misamis Oriental, namely: Balingoan, Gingoog, Kinoguitan, Lagonglong, Magsaysay, Manticao, Medina, Naawan, Opol, Salay, Tagoloan and Villanueva, and the municipality and city in the Province of Misamis Occidental, namely: Aloran, Baliangao, Calamba, Clarin, Oroquieta, Panaon, Plaridel, Sapang Dalaga and Tudela, with principal office address at Misamis Oriental-Misamis Occidental Road, Barangay Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, where it may be served with notices and processes issued in this case;
2. Typhoon "Seniang" (international name: Nock-Ten) which entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on December 17, 2016 and exited the PAR on December 27, 2016, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, hit the Province of Misamis Oriental, Province of Misamis Occidental, Province of Bukidnon, Province of Lanao del Norte, Province of Camiguin, Province of Agusan del Norte, Province of Agusan del Sur, Province of Surigao del Norte, Province of Surigao del Sur, Province of Dinagat Islands, Province of Davao Oriental, Province of Davao de Oro, Province of Davao del Norte, Province of Davao del Sur, Province of Davao Occidental, Province of Cotabato, Province of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Sarangani, Province of South Cotabato, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, Province of Basilan, Province of Tawi-Tawi, Province of Sulu, Province of Palawan, Province of Aklan, Province of Antique, Province of Capiz, Province of Iloilo, Province of Guimaras, Province of Negros Occidental, Province of Negros Oriental, Province of Siquijor, Province of Cebu, Province of Bohol, Province of Leyte, Province of Southern Leyte, Province of Biliran, Province of Eastern Samar, Province of Northern Samar, Province of Western Samar, Province of Catanduanes, Province of Albay, Province of Camarines Sur, Province of Camarines Norte, Province of Sorsogon, Province of Masbate, Province of Romblon, Province of Mindoro Occidental, Province of Mindoro Oriental, Province of Marinduque, Province of Batangas, Province of Cavite, Province of Laguna, Province of Rizal, Province of Quezon, Province of Bulacan, Province of Pampanga, Province of Tarlac, Province of Zambales, Province of Pangasinan, Province of La Union, Province of Ilocos Sur, Province of Ilocos Norte, Province of Abra, Province of Apayao, Province of Kalinga, Province of Mountain Province, Province of Ifugao, Province of Benguet, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, Province of Quirino, Province of Aurora, Province of Nueva Ecija, Province of Bata

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS PHILIPPINES dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **KLOO SUPPLY CHAIN PHILIPPINES, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Operator of Cold Storage Facilities** at a capacity of 512,326 palletsyear on a **Non-Pioneer Status**, with project site located in Barrio Lubogan, Toril, Davao City.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication/ posting.

(Sgd.) NESTOR P. ARCANGALES
Director
Resource-Based Industries Department

(PIR April 19, 2012)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO BID

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO), through its Bid and Awards Committee (BAC), invites potential and qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, bid for a **PHP3 Million worth of Mitsubishi four trailers** with the following significant points to consider:

1. Cash and applicable should be in the name with credit billing system and can client-share with SUKELCO's present system immediately delivered;
2. Offered trailers should have an ERC Certificate of Type Approval for Motor Products as required by ERC Resolution No. 21 Series of 2010;
3. With Energy Regulating Commission's (ERC) seal and stated: FOB is SUKELCO Warehouse; and
4. Actual Demonstration of Unit to offer during Pre-bid Conference.

All details shall be discussed during a compulsory and required **Pre-Bid Conference on April 26, 2012** at 2:00 P.M. at SUKELCO Board Room. **Sealed proper** shall be on **April 30, 2012**, same venue at 10:00 A.M. For interested suppliers but not yet accredited by SUKELCO, secure list of requirements for accreditation from Ms. L. Fandiño. All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security, in cash or cheque in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the bid amount.

SUKELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDGAR M. SARMIENTO, REE**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **ERNESTINO D. JEREZ, PEE**
General Manager

(PIR Apr. 19, 2012)

PART-TIME LAYOUT ARTIST

We are in need of part-timers who can render services on an as-call basis.

Qualifications:
- Extensive knowledge of Adobe InDesign
- Can type 80-85 words per minute
- Experience with publications is an advantage

Interested applicants may e-mail their resumes to: **jlvalderas@inquirer.com.ph**

DepED

2nd INVITATION TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Municipality of Kananga invites bids for the following projects:

Name of the Project	Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Procurement of Office Supplies for the Municipality	Poblacion, Municipality of Kananga	Bond paper, Ballpen, Manila Folder, Ink, Ledger, Calculator, Envelope	Php 3,000,000.00

GOODS TO COME: Monday, March 26th

1. Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether a local or foreign individual or joint venture with an appropriate license and the required documents to submit the bid/proposal.
2. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be given, if any, in the Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. Bidders shall be qualified to procure the project if they can demonstrate their capability in accordance with Section 23.4.2 of the IRR of RA 9184.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.
5. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Philippine citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and adopted in Commonwealth Act No. 138.
6. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from **The BAC - Sheila Chavez of Municipality of Kananga** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents shall be available only to prospective bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 5,000.00** (**Procurement of Office Supplies**), **Php 3,000.00** (**Office Equipment & Communication Equipment**), **Php 1,000.00** for **Furniture & Fixtures, and/or Supplies** (**Equipment & Accessories, Insecticides**) **RA 10924/RA 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations**, pursuant to Section 5.4.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. The bidders shall be eligible, except in accordance with Section 5 of the Bidding Documents for the Contract under the Agency-Client Contract (ACC) (CB) which pertains to the work performed or rendered and/or services rendered by the bidder.
8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The **BAC - Sheila Chavez of Municipality of Kananga** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. **Sheila Chavez of Municipality of Kananga**
9. A complete set of Bidding Documents shall be available only to prospective bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 5,000.00** (**Procurement of Office Supplies**), **Php 3,000.00** (**Office Equipment & Communication Equipment**), **Php 1,000.00** for **Furniture & Fixtures, and/or Supplies** (**Equipment & Accessories, Insecticides**) **RA 10924/RA 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations**, pursuant to Section 5.4.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. The bidders shall be eligible, except in accordance with Section 5 of the Bidding Documents for the Contract under the Agency-Client Contract (ACC) (CB) which pertains to the work performed or rendered and/or services rendered by the bidder.
10. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **The BAC - Sheila Chavez of Municipality of Kananga** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Activities	Schedules
1 Advertisement of Bidding	April 19, 2012 (1st)
2 Pre-bid Conference	April 20, 2012 (10:00 AM)
3 Posting of Bids	April 20, 2012 (10:00 AM)
4 Opening of Bids	April 20, 2012 (10:00 AM)
5 Bid Evaluation	April 20, 2012
6 Post-Qualification	April 20, 2012
7 Notice of Award	April 20, 2012
8 Contract Signing	April 20, 2012

11. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of (1) Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank draft/guarantee, Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial or Universal Bank - 2% to of ABC (10 working days); 5% of ABC (30 working days); and
12. The Municipality of Kananga reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding incidents, not to award the contract, to waive any defect therein, and to accept or cancel at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action. In this way, the Municipality of Kananga shall avoid any undesirable situation or complaint by the bidder or bidders. Any such contract/agreement to be governed.

For more information, refer to:

John Geoffrey Bonoan, Jr. Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

Dr. Arlyn F. Dueñas
Head, Bids Secretariat
Municipality of Kananga
Kananga, Leyte
Tel. No. (053) 412-0123
Telefax: (053) 412-0124
Email: kananga_leyte@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO A. HAMADA III**
Bids and Awards Committee Chairman

Posted: Kananga Bulletin Board
Kananga Municipal Hall
Kananga, Leyte

(PIR Apr. 19, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga del Sur
Municipality of Kumalarang

INVITATION TO BID

Construction of Sub-Kumalarang Bypass (RM) (BUILDING OF 2-M Wide Asphalt) (PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR)

The Republic of the Philippines represented in part by the Asian Development Bank and DBCC (Development Bank of the Philippines) has received financing from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of Php 1,000,000,000.00 and intends to apply the fund for the construction of Sub-Kumalarang Bypass (RM) (BUILDING OF 2-M Wide Asphalt) (PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR).

The Municipality of Kumalarang now invites bids for construction of Sub-Kumalarang Bypass (RM) (BUILDING OF 2-M Wide Asphalt) (PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR). Bidders should have completed within the last five (5) years from the date of the submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be given, if any, in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Philippine citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and adopted in Commonwealth Act No. 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 5,000.00** (**Procurement of Office Supplies**), **Php 3,000.00** (**Office Equipment & Communication Equipment**), **Php 1,000.00** for **Furniture & Fixtures, and/or Supplies** (**Equipment & Accessories, Insecticides**) **RA 10924/RA 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations**, pursuant to Section 5.4.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184. The bidders shall be eligible, except in accordance with Section 5 of the Bidding Documents for the Contract under the Agency-Client Contract (ACC) (CB) which pertains to the work performed or rendered and/or services rendered by the bidder.

Item No.	Description of Works	Unit Price	Quantity	Unit
I	**Sub-Kumalarang Bypass**			
1	Sub-Kumalarang Bypass			
	1 Earthworks			
	101 Clearing and Grubbing	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	102 Roadway Excavation	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	103 Excavation Structure	10.00%	500.00	sq.m.
	104 Embankment of Compacted Earth	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	105 Subbase Course	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	106 Shoulder	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	107 Aggregate Subbase Course	10.00%	3,000.00	sq.m.
	108 Aggregate Base Course	10.00%	3,000.00	sq.m.
	2 Slope Protection and Protection Works	10.00%		
	201 Gabion Works	10.00%	10,000.00	sq.m.
	202 Concrete Revetment	10.00%	500.00	sq.m.
	203 Gabion Revetment	10.00%	500.00	sq.m.
	3 Drainage and Slope Protection Structures	10.00%		
	301 Concrete Structure (RCP)	10.00%	10.00	m.
	302 Concrete Structure (RCP)	10.00%	10.00	m.
	303 Reinforced Concrete (Precast Cover)	10.00%	10.00	m.
	Estimated Direct Cost (EDC)	100.00%		

Bidders' Eligibility Requirement: Bidders to be pre-qualified and Short Listed Domestic Contractors (DOLE Cat. 1 with classification/Financial Capacity of Php 1,000,000.00 and above) Public Works (1st class), classification/Financial Capacity of Php 1,000,000.00 and above) Public Works (1st class) and Licensed Contractors (DOLE Cat. 1 with classification/Financial Capacity of Php 1,000,000.00 and above) Public Works (1st class) and Licensed Contractors (DOLE Cat. 1 with classification/Financial Capacity of Php 1,000,000.00 and above) Public Works (1st class).

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with Republic Act 9184 (Competitive procurement), and is open to bidders from eligible countries under the Asian Development Bank.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the DBCC Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 5,000.00 and submit it to the DBCC Bids and Awards Committee on April 1, 2012. Bids must be delivered on or before 10:00 A.M. on April 19, 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bid Security Bond issued by a surety or insurance company duly accredited by the Insurance Commission and callable on demand, in the amount of Php 1,000,000.00.

The bidder may represent the bid himself/herself or send an agent by letter but in no case will the Bid Bulletin Board, at the above address, on April 19, 2012. The bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether a local or foreign individual or joint venture with an appropriate license and the required documents to submit the bid/proposal. Bidders should have completed within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be given, if any, in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The Municipality of Kumalarang will hold a Pre-bid Conference on **April 26, 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at the Kumalarang Municipal Session Hall. Only prospective bidders having submitted a bid will be allowed to participate in the pre-bid conference.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted. The deadline for the submission of bids shall be on **April 30, 2012, 10:00 A.M.** May 1st, 2012. The opening of bids is immediately after.

The Municipality of Kumalarang reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. For more information, refer to:

ARMANDO A. ABANILLA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Kumalarang
Province of Zamboanga del Sur

Approved by: **Mayor Ma. Victoria Ann Ong**

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO A. ABANILLA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PIR Apr. 19, 2012)

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"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

Our Dearly Beloved

Gloria Viray vda de Yap

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 17th day of April 2012 at the age of 86.

Her children **Dan, Lucy** (†), **Rudy** (†), **Quirino Jr.** (†), **Tess, Fer, Linda, Jingo, Foodie, Jesse** and **Monet**, together with their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sister **Ising**, sister-in-law **Carmelita** and brother-in-law **Johnnie** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at A. Consunji St., City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will take place on Saturday, April 21, 2012 after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." – John 3:16

GLICERIO "Gless/Serio" ELFA VILLANO

Provincial Board Member, Province of Bulacan 1980-1992

Municipal Councilor, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan 1972-1980

Beloved husband of Ned, loving father of Vivo and Ruby, Vincent (†) and Rachel, Czar and Lyn and Christine & Joel, doting Grandpa to Job, Abby, Trista, Gell and Migge.

He peacefully joined his Creator on April 16, 2012 at the Philippine Heart Center at the age of 73.

Interment will be on April 21, 2012, Saturday, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 9:00 A.M. mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Dra. Lilia Villareal Canchela

peacefully joined the Lord on April 16, 2012 at the age of 76.

Her bereaved relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 6 in Loyola Memorial Chapels and Crematorium Inc., Commonwealth Ave. corner Luzon Avenue, Fairview Area, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 21, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Identification (Valid/Valid ID's)

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